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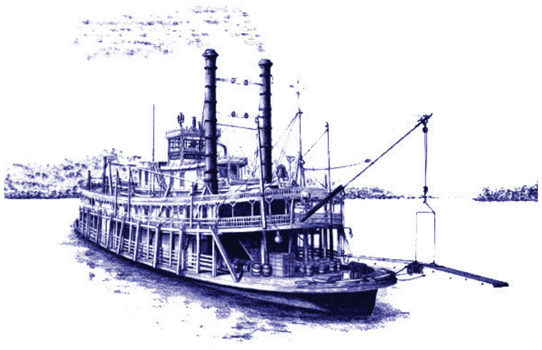


ANDERSON DOMINATES 2ND HALF OVER HANOVER ***PAGE B1***

THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024 · *Serving the Courier area since 1837* · NEWSSTAND • $1.25

Residences at Sunrise Crossing get approval to move forward

BY BOB DEMAREE

Approvals to move forward with the 192-unit Residences at Sunrise Crossing development were granted at Monday's Madison Plan Commission meeting, but not before complaints were heard from residents concerned about losing the wooded area adjacent to their properties.

The application to the Plan Commission was for general business setbacks with a plan to build a multi-phase affordable multi-family housing complex, requesting setbacks of 10 feet on the north and west lot lines and 30 feet on the east and south lot lines. There was also an application for parking that the Plan Commission approved that also required and received approval for a variance by the Board of Zoning Appeals. The new development is located near the intersection of Michigan Road and Clifty Drive.

Gabe Fritz, director of development with Winterwood Development, said a retention pond will hold runoff water for both the housing complex and the retail complex at hte adjoining Shoppes at Sunrise Crossing. He said there will be a 6-foot wooden privacy fence around the entire property and that construction will be done in two phases.

Dave Caldwell, who lives on Miles Ridge Road, was concerned about the view from his house, asking the developer to leave as many existing mature trees as possible, install an effective ground level screen and limit the foot travel across the neighboring yards.

SEE **APPROVAL/PAGE A8**

Actor Matt Damon in the Super Bowl commercial for Dunkin's DunKings donuts featuring skewers designed and manucaftured by Madison's Royer Corporation.

Handout

Royer produced donut skewers featured in Super Bowl commercial

BY BOB DEMAREE

While watching the Super Bowl on Sunday, no one at Royer Corporation had any expectations that they would be seeing one of their products featured during a Dunkin Donuts commercial.

The commercial featured the new DunKings Munchkins Skewers, manufactured by family-owned Royer Corporation in Madison, and several a-list celebrities.

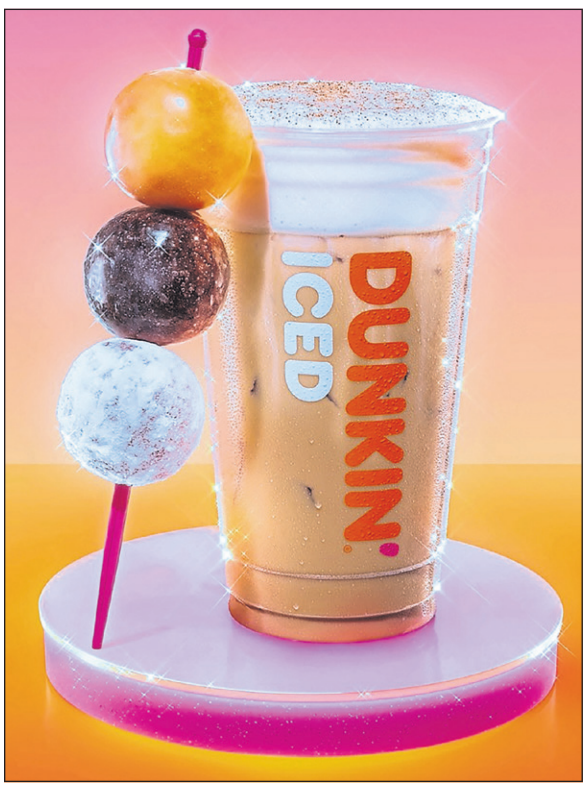
"It was a surprise to us," said Tom Seaver, vice president for sales and marketing. "This is a limited time offer that was going to be unveiled in February" but they had no knowledge that the donut skewer would be in the commercial.

The DunKings menu that includes the DunKings Munchkins Skewers was available in stores nationwide beginning on Monday, Feb. 12.

The Super Bowl is known not just for being the championship game of the NFL football season but a phenomenon that attracts a huge television audience and the launch of high-profile commercials that garner a great deal of attention.

The Dunkin Donuts commercial is part of an episodic story that marks the latest installment in the "Dunkin Cinematic Universe." The Super Bowl commercial included actors Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, singer Jennifer Lopez and retired football quarterback Tom Brady.

SEE **ROYER/PAGE A8**

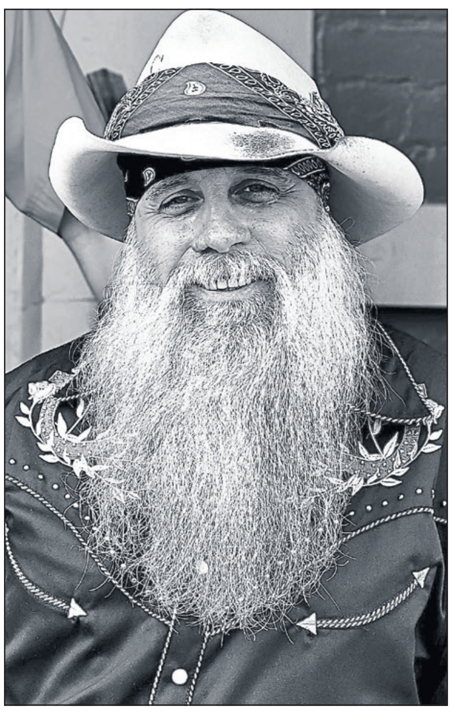


Dunkin's DunKings donuts pictured on the skewer designed and manucaftured by Madison's Royer Corporation.

Handout

PRESIDENTS DAY CLOSINGS

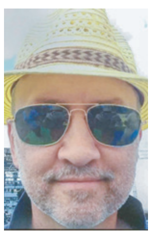
- All offices for the city of Madison, town of Hanover and Jefferson County will be closed Monday in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.
- The Madison closing on Monday includes the water office and transfer station. Also, trash, recycling and compost in Madison will be delayed one day the week of Feb. 19-23.
- Both the Hanover and Madison branches of the Jefferson County Public Library also will be closed Monday for Presidents Day.
- U.S. Postal Service facilities will be closed for retail transactions on Monday, Feb. 19, and there will be no residential or business deliveries. Normal delivery and collection schedules will resume Tuesday, Feb. 20.
- The Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites will offer free admission on Presidents Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at most of its 12 locations across the state, including the Lanier Mansion State Historic Site in Madison.



Handout

DALLAS MOORE

Moore coming to Madison on Feb. 23



CHARLIE
ROHLFING
CHARLIE'S BEAT

Dallas Moore goes by many sobriquets. He's known to multiple generations as one of the true torchbearers of the Outlaw Country flame. Some call him "The Hardest Working Man in Honky Tonk" and others a "Modern Day Hardcore Troubadour."

Now in his 12th year performing more than 300 shows a year, his reputation is well earned.

"To see and hear me now," says Dallas, "I think a lot of people might be surprised how I started out in music. I was a huge Willie Nelson fan especially his sparse and emotional guitar playing. But come to find out, Willie's guitar inspiration was jazz legend Django Reinhardt. So I thought, OK, that's where I need to start. I actually went to school on a jazz/classical guitar scholarship, if you can believe that!"

Dallas Moore's guitar playing style and prowess will be on full display when he performs his solo show at Red Bicycle Hall on Friday, Feb. 23.

"Anyone who's seen me with a full band knows we are loud and proud and always high energy. You might not hear my guitar that much during those full band shows," explains Dallas. "But when I play a solo show you're going to hear a lot more of the nuanced stuff I do on guitar, with a foundation in Willie and Django and all the rest.

"But don't get me wrong, my solo work still brings the fun that people expect from a Dallas Moore show, it's not me sitting in a corner playing ballads. It's high energy and intense. Just a little cleaner and easy to hear everything, without the other instruments. I think people will really like it.

"I'm going to be performing my latest album in its entirety, There's No God in Juarez. Plus I'll be working in songs from my upcoming solo album, called Gems and Jams. It's a kind of retrospective compilation from the 18 albums I've put out, including many songs that have been out of print for years. It's amazing how well the songs hold up even after 20 years."

SEE **MOORE/PAGE A8**

42 High · 22 Low
Details, Page A2

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Comics/**A4-5**

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Mary Ball
Jefferey Emmons
Alma Gordon
Larry Hawkins
Edwinna Hearvrin
Thomas Kelly
Rose Roberts
Trace Taylor
Larry Wright

Madison man sentenced for dealing in methamphetamine

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Russell Martin Campton, 48, of Madison, was sentenced last week to a total of 15 years, after pleading guilty to a Level 2 felony charge of dealing in methamphetamine. Pursuant to his sentence, 12 years will be executed with 3 years suspended.

Russell Martin Campton

Campton, sentenced in Jefferson Circuit Court on Jan. 24, will serve his sentence in the Indiana Department of Corrections.

"This sentence reflects the severity of the crime committed and serves as a significant step in combating drug-related activities in our community," said Jefferson County Prosecutor David R. Sutter. "Removing individuals involved in drug trafficking from our streets for an extended period contributes to the safety and well-being of our citizens."

The sentencing stems from an investigation initiated by law enforcement last spring after receiving reports of suspected drug trafficking. Campton was apprehended in June on multiple felony drug charges.

"I extend my gratitude to Detective Kyle Cutshaw and the City of Madison Police Department for their diligent efforts in this investigation," said Sutter. "Their commitment to upholding law and order in our city is commendable, and their dedication to ensuring justice is served is evident."

At the time of his arrest, Campton was already on probation. In February 2023, he pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, resulting in a sentence of 362 days suspended to supervised probation.

Sutter said the successful prosecution underscores the collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies and the Prosecutor's Office in addressing drug-related crimes and safeguarding the community.

Robberies result in convictions for 3 Jefferson County residents

BY COURIER STAFF

Three Jefferson County residents have been convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms following a pair of robberies in January 2023, where a total of $315 was taken.

Joshua L. Johnson received a 17-year sentence, and Paige Melton was sentenced to 17 and one-half years. Additionally, James McCarty, who pleaded guilty in additional cases, received a 36-year sentence, with 26 years to be executed followed by 8 years of probation.

"Thanks to the swift response and thorough investigation by area law enforcement, we were able to hold these three defendants accountable," said Jefferson County Prosecutor David Sutter.

The incidents unfolded on January 24, 2023, when a male approached a deputy with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, reporting a robbery at gunpoint on Glad Street in Hanover.

The investigation revealed that Melton had invited the victim to her house where he was accosted by three male individuals, including Joshua Johnson who held a gun to his head. The victim stated that he was ordered to provide his cell phone to the male subjects. He then reported being struck in the head by a tire iron.

The victim was able to run out of the residence where he spotted a deputy at the Circle K gas station. He stopped to make a report. Due to the victim's injuries, he was examined by Norton King's Daughters' Health EMS and was ultimately flown to University of Louisville Hospital for treatment.

The investigation led law enforcement to execute a search warrant at Joshua Johnson's residence where law enforcement located several blood stains and silver in color tire iron that was consistent with the report from the victim. The investigation also led law enforcement to obtain a search warrant for Joshua Johnson's cell phone, which revealed communication between Joshua Johnson, McCarty, Melton, and Jayden Johnson regarding the robbery. Further, the investigation revealed that Melton used the victim's phone to transfer $295 from the victim's cash app account to Jayden's cash app account, before taking $200 for herself.

On that same night, the Sheriff's Department was contacted by a man in Canaan that reported being robbed at gunpoint by two male subjects. He identified one as McCarty and another male, later identified as Joshua Johnson. Melton revealed to law enforcement that they targeted the victim for retribution over a narcotics transaction. He stated that Joshua had a pistol on him and that they ordered the victim to his knees, taking his cell phone and wallet that contained $20 in cash.

Both robberies were investigated by Detective C.J. Miller of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the City of Madison Police Department and the Town of Hanover Police Department.

I-65 traffic stop leads to arrest of 2 Jefferson County residents

BY COURIER STAFF

Two Jefferson County residents were arrested Monday by Indiana State Police on multiple charges following a traffic stop on I-65 in southern Bartholomew County.

The investigation began at approximately 9 a.m. when Trooper Travis Linville conducted a traffic stop on a silver Hyundai Elantra for a traffic violation on I-65 Southbound near the 61-mile marker in Bartholomew County. During the course of the traffic stop, a passenger in the vehicle, Robert McGaughey, 37, Dupont, was found to be wanted on a Jefferson County warrant for Maintaining a Common Nuisance.

Troopers Randel Miller and Jordan Hartmann soon arrived on scene to assist. Miller's K-9 "Bosco" alerted to the odor of alleged illegal drugs coming from the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, troopers located suspected methamphetamine, syringes and drug paraphernalia.

The driver of the vehicle, Dahlila Jester, 26, Madison, was arrested on drug related charges. Jester was transported to the Bartholomew County Jail where approximately 10 grams of suspected methamphetamine was found concealed on her body.

McGaughey was incarcerated on the Jefferson County Warrant. Jester was jailed on preliminary charges of Possession of Methamphetamine, Level 4 felony; Trafficking with an Inmate, a Level 5 felony, Possession of Syringe, a Level 6 felony; and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.

McGaughey was transported back to Jefferson County to face a court appearance on his pending charge. Jester will soon have an initial appearance in Bartholomew County Circuit Court.

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

LODGINGS

February 12, 2023

Daniel M. Barnes, 41, La Grange, Kentucky, Communication Intimidation, a Level 6 felony; and Invasion of Privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond.

February 13, 2023

James R. Parker II, 39, no address listed, Domestic Battery, a Level 5 felony. No bond.

Michael Allen Youngblood, 44, Madison, Fraud, a Level 5 felony. Bond $5,000 cash.

February 14, 2023

Marcus Benjamin Burgess, 39, Hanover, on an Indiana arrest warrant. No bond.

Sarah Taylor Vickroy, 23, Westerville, Ohio, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear (drug charges). Bond $5,000 cash.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SUPERIOR & CIRCUIT COURT

SENTENCINGS

February 12, 2024

Dalton David Lee Ashcraft, 23, Madison, for Public Intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail with credit for 6 days served and 174 days to serve consecutive to current probation plus $189 in court costs.

Justin Michael Maddox, 40, Madison, for Driving While Suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to non-reporting probation consecutive to current probation in separate case plus $189.50 in court costs and defendant must obtain a valid driving license.

Dustin Ray Smith, 32, Deputy, Indiana, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, all suspended to supervised probation consecutive to probation in Ripley County, Indiana, plus $289 in fees and court costs.

Sherradon Paige Stewart, 21, Madison, to Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to unsupervised probation consecutive to pretrial diversion plus $189 in court costs and defendant must obtain a valid driving license.

February 13, 2024

Timothy Wayne Barron, 53, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 10 days served and 355 days suspended to supervised probation plus $539.50 in fees and court costs and driver's license suspended for 180 days.

Jason Thomas Spicer, 37, Borden, Indiana, to an amended charge of Possession of Narcotic Drug, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 900 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 8 days served, 232 days to serve and 660 days suspended to supervised probation plus $889 in fees and court costs.

Julie A. Skinner, 53, Hanover, to an amended charge of Possession of Legend Drug, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 540 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 18 days served, 182 days to serve and 360 days suspended to supervised probation plus $489 in fees and court costs.

Eric Michael Beckley, 44, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail with credit for 2 days served and 178 days suspended to supervised probation consecutive to sentencing for prior conviction plus $539.50 in fees and court costs with license suspended for 90 days.

Ashley Dawn Martinez, 29, Hanover, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, all suspended except for 30 days jail to be served on consecutive weekends with balance suspended to supervised probation plus $339 in fees and court costs.

Kenneth Glenn Ledbetter, 41, Madison, for Public Intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 90 days jail, fully executed and consecutive to prior sentence to Indiana Department of Correction plus $239 in fees and court costs.

Eric Michael Beckley, 44, Madison, to amended charges of Resisting Law Enforcement, a Level 6 felony; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony, all suspended, consecutive to 10 days jail on the misdemeanor, fully executed and consecutive to sentenced on prior conviction with 365 days suspended to supervised probation plus $889 in fees and court costs.

Jeremiah Arnold White, 27, Austin, Indiana, to amended charges of Resisting Law Enforcement, a Level 6 felony; and Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 730 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony, all suspended except for 185 days with credit for 170 days served, concurrent to 365 days jail on the misdemeanor, all suspended. Placed on 550 days supervised probation plus $689.50 in fees and court costs.

Kenneth Glenn Ledbetter, 41, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed with credit for 122 days served consecutive to separate sentence listed above plus $689 in fees and court costs.

Amber Nicole Howard, 39, Hanover, to an amended charge of Theft, a Level 6 felony; and Criminal Trespass, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days at Department of Correction on the felony, all suspended except for 2 days served, consecutive to 180 days jail on the misdemeanor, all suspended. Placed on 358 days supervised probation plus $489 in fees and court costs.

Jeremiah Arnold White, 27, Austin, Indiana, to amended charge of Domestic Battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 65 days served and 300 days suspended to supervised probation consecutive to separate sentencing listed above plus $289 in fees and court costs.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY

February 12, 2024

Crafton Investment Fund LLC to Jacob D Marshall and Annabella G. Marshall, 8342 West Kent State Road 256, Madison.

Pauline F. Bruther and Kenneth E. Bruther (deceased) to Pauline F. Bruther, 530 Hickory Drive, Hanover.

Billy R. Applegate to Billy R. Applegate and Jennifer Ann Applegate, 1207 North 1545 West, Deputy.

BIRTHDAYS

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have follow-up questions.

FEB. 20
Tanya Burnette
Karen Wright

FEB. 21
Paul Stone

FEB. 22
Bernie Corbin

FEB. 23
Andrew Forrester
Kristen Mundt
Carla Goins

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:30 a.m.

Sunset: 6:21 p.m.

Temperature: High 56, Low 29, Mean 42.5, Excess 3.2

Precipitation since last published: 0

Precipitation, February 2024: .59

Precipitation, 2024: 6.98

Barometer: 29.89, Falling

River Level at Clifty Creek: 423.88, Steady

Forecast: Saturday: Sunny High 33/Low 21; Sunday: Sunny High 45/Low 26; Monday: Mostly sunny High 53/Low 33; Tuesday: Partly cloudy High 57/Low 40.

LOTTERY

INDIANA

Hoosier Lotto: 1-5-6-13-19-21 (2/14). **Next Estimated Jackpot:** $4.8 million. Next Drawing (2/17).

Cash Five: 2-10-15-32-43 (2/14)

Cash 4 Life: 13-18-41-44-51 CB: 3 (2/14)

KENTUCKY

Cash Ball: 7-8-26-29 CB 11 (2/14)

Kentucky 5 Extra: 6-12-15-28-37 (2/14)

Lucky For Life:4-7-39-42-46 LB: 4 (2/14)

MEGAMILLIONS: 1-3-19-25-58 MB: 20, MP 3 (2/13). **Next Jackpot**: $457 million. Next Drawing (2/16)

POWERBALL: 1-4-45-47-67 PB:18, PP 2 (2/14). **Next Estimated Jackpot:** $306 million. Next Drawing (2/17)

POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 33-40-45-48-53 PB: 17 (2/14). **Next Estimated Jackpot:** Up to $10 million. Next Drawing (2/17)

THE MADISON COURIER

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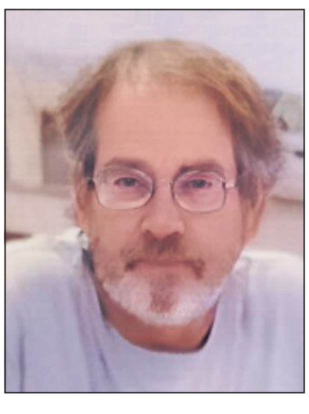
CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
2:30 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issue
Noon Monday for Thursday issue
Noon Thursday for Saturday issue

VOL. 224 • ISSUE NO. 14

OBITUARIES

Thomas Matthew Kelly Jr.



Thomas Matthew Kelly Jr., of Madison, formerly of Aurora, Kentucky was born in Madison, on Sept. 23, 1950. He was the son of Thomas Matthew Kelly Sr. and Dorothy Lillian Nally Kelly. Tom Jr., was raised in Madison and graduated from Shawe Memorial High School in 1969. After graduation, Tom attended Indiana University where he studied biology and graduated in 1973.

Tom went on to earn his Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Kentucky. His first teaching job was in the Fayette County schools. Tom also managed the Carriage House Apartments in Lexington, Kentucky, where he met his future wife and lifelong companion, Melinda Travis Kelly, in 1975, and they wed in 1977.

From Lexington, Tom and Melinda took a year off to travel by sailboat from Kentucky Lake near Aurora down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico and on to Key West, Florida. They then returned to Aurora, where Tom began teaching in the Marshall County school system's special education program. He then taught at Calloway County schools in an elementary special education classroom.

After retiring from teaching in 1992, Tom enrolled at Murray State University to study fine arts, where he focused on painting and drawing. From that time, Tom worked in his studio, creating art from a variety of media, including wood, oil, charcoal, pencil and photography. Tom participated in the Murray Art Guild for years, and showed his work at the Guild, in Madison and around Kentucky.

Tom enjoyed horseback riding, trailblazing in the woods around his childhood home with his cousin Spalding Kelly, and playing music, forming several bands during high school, including "The Boys" and "The Yellow Pages." He began sailing in college and enjoyed sailing on Kentucky Lake. Tom loved to travel with his wife Melinda, and together they visited New York City, learned to scuba dive in Micronesia, and hiked in the Rocky Mountains. Tom particularly enjoyed going to the theater and visiting art museums wherever they went.

Tom dearly loved his family and Melinda's, and enjoyed sharing the beauty of Kentucky Lake with them, along with his passion for art, music, nature, photography and sports, especially Kentucky basketball. Through his art, life and love he showed all those around him appreciation and kindness.

Tom passed peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at 9:42 p.m. with his loving wife at his side at the Thornton Terrace Health Campus in Hanover.

Tom will be missed by his wife, Melinda Travis Kelly of Madison; his brother, Paul Kelly of Madison; his sister, Dorothy "Dotty" Kelly-Paddock and her husband,, Peter of Hau'ula, HI; his sister, Lisa Kelly Bruce and her husband Mike of Henryville; his aunt, Judy Nally McIntyre of Louisville, KY; his nieces and his nephews, Jill Kelly Koren (Emeka), Natalie Kelly, Allie Kelly Knierem (Eric "Red") Harlan Kelly (Sarah), Kelly Ann Rusch (Adam), Patrick Bruce and Tyler Paddock; his great-nieces and great-nephews, Jonathon (Alina), Sonny, Esphyr, Lola, Henry, Ella, Lily and Scarlett; numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas M. Kelly Sr.; his mother, Dorothy "Dot" Nally Kelly; his sister-in-law, Rosie York Kelly.

Friends and family may gather on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, from 1-3 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Murray Art Guild, 500 North 4th Street in Murray, Kentucky 42071. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Rose Marie 'Ree' Hoffman Roberts

Rose Marie "Ree" Hoffman Roberts, 64, of Madison, entered this life on Feb. 16, 1959 in Madison. She was the loving daughter of the late Herman E. Sr. and Rozella Allen Hoffman. She was raised in Madison and was a 1977 graduate of Shawe Memorial High School. She then received her business administration degree from Indiana University Southeast. On April 22, 1978, Rose Marie was united in marriage to Norman F. Roberts at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in downtown Madison. This happy union of 45 years was blessed with three daughters, Kristen, Kimberly and Megan.

She worked early in life for the Madison Chamber of Commerce as the small business development director for five years. She had also worked for the Ohio Valley Opportunities as a grant writer for five years. She retired from Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis as the compliance analyst after eleven years of service. She was a member of the Prince of Peace Catholic Church and had owned her own franchise "Great Clips" in Jeffersonville for twenty one years. She was a beloved wife, devoted mom and mamaw. She loved to help other small businesses and nonprofits. She was an avid reader, loved her flowers, working in her garden, like to cross stitch, and was a great seamstress and liked to sew.

She fought a gallant battle with Alzheimer's and was lovingly cared for by her family at home since 2018. Rose Marie died on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, at 6 a.m. at her home in Madison, with her loving family at her side.

Rose Marie will be missed by her loving husband of 45 years, Norman "Norm" F. Roberts of Madison; her daughters, Kristen Long and her husband, Dave of Fishers, Kimberly Roberts of Madison, Megan Hicks and her husband, Brandon of Madison; her grandchildren, Mason, Matthew, Addalynn Rose, Taylor Rene' and Emma Grace; her sisters, Carolyn Stutler and her husband, Richard of Madison, Mary Truitt of Fishers, Mary Jean Faulkenburg and her husband, David of Floyds Knobs; her brothers, Herman Hoffman Jr. of Conroe, TX, Fred Hoffman and his wife, Sonya of Hartford City, Jim Hoffman and his wife, Resa of Madison, Frank Hoffman and his wife, Lisa of Maineville, OH; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Herman E. Hoffman Sr. and her mother, Rozella Allen Hoffman.

Funeral Mass will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at 1 p.m., by Father Christopher A. Craig at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 413 East Second Street in downtown Madison. Interment will follow in the Brown Bacon Hoffman Roberts Cemetery in Madison.

Friends may visit Friday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

The Rosary will be prayed on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Brown Bacon Hoffman Roberts Cemetery. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover or at the church. Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Larry Vernon Wright

Larry Vernon Wright, 72, of Madison, entered this life on May 9, 1951 in Madison. He was the son of Boyd Dean Wright Sr. and Rose Ann McDaniel Wright Morgan. He resided in Madison all of his life and attended Madison Consolidated High School and received his GED. He was inducted into the United States Army and was honorably discharged.

He worked early in life for the U.S. Shoe Corporation in downtown Madison. Larry then worked at Arvins in North Vernon in production for several years. He then went to work with K-Cord in Scottsburg in Quality control. Larry then worked at the Madison State Hospital as a psychiatric attendant for several years. He was the companion of Evelyn Rowlett for 25 years and they were married for 12 years. They had owned and operated the Tax Factory together where Larry served as president.

Larry enjoyed collecting baseball cards, listening to music, going to concerts and being with his children and grandchildren. He also enjoyed playing cards at the Madison Moose Lodge No. 765. For the past two months Larry, resided at the Hanover Health & Rehab Assisted Living in Hanover and had the time of his life entertaining the nursing staff and CNAs with his jokes and witty personality.

Larry died on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at 4:35 p.m. at his daughter's home in Madison.

Larry will be missed by his loving mother, Rose Ann McDaniel Wright Morgan and her husband, Leonard of Madison; his loving daughter, Carla Wright of Madison; his loving sons, Michael Wright and his companion, Nikki Delaney of Madison, and Kevin Wright of Madison; his loving grandchildren, Katelyn Lindsay and her husband, Daniel, Kaia Mathis, Kianna Mathis, Lillian Wright, and Ella Wright; his half brothers, Dennis Morgan of Milton, KY, Brian Morgan of Milton, KY, Boyd Dean Wright Jr. of Elgin, SC; his stepsister, Sherry Brown of Milton, KY; his half sisters, Lynette Wright of Madison, Fredonna Kemph of St. Joseph, MI, Kimberly Wright of Madison; his companion 25 years and wife of 12 years, Evelyn Rowlett Wright of Madison, and her children, Tommy Rowlett and his significant other, Angie of Madison; Andrew Rowlett and his wife, Betty of North Vernon; Chris Rowlett of Madison, and their families; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, Boyd D. Wright Sr.; his maternal grandparents, Vernon Henry McDaniel and Ella "Fern" Spillman McDaniel; his half brother, Steven Leroy Morgan; his paternal grandparents, Wilford and Mary Frances Cox Wright; his brother-in-law, Ed Brown; his sisters-in-law, Ramona Morgan and Pam Morgan; his aunts, Velma Pearl McLeaster and Marjorie Dee Poynter.

Private services will be at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre-Hanover Chapel, 278 East Main Street in Hanover. Interment will follow in the Springdale Cemetery in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Springdale Cemetery. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

SEE **OBITUARY/PAGE A6**

DEATH NOTICES

Jeffrey A. Emmons, 58, of Madison, IN, died Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, at his residence in Madison. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Lytle Welty Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Madison, www.lytlewelty.com.

Alma Louise Gordon, 79, of Worthville, KY, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2024. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16, at New Funeral Homes in Owenton, KY, with burial in the Owenton Cemetery there, www.mcdonaldandnew.com.

Larry Wayne Hawkins, 76, of Carrollton, KY, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville. Funeral service will be at noon on Friday, Feb. 16, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, with interment in Port Royal, KY, Cemetery, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Edwinna Gale Heavrin, 81, of Bedford, KY, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2024, at Highlands Health and Rehab Center in Louisville. There will be no services. Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Trace Lee Taylor, 22, of Port St. Lucie, FL, and Milton, KY, died unexpectedly on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at his home. A service of remembrance will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, IN. Interment was Jan. 6, 2024, at Fernhill Memorial Gardens in Stuart, FL. www.morgan-nay.com.

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www.madisoncourier.com

Farmers
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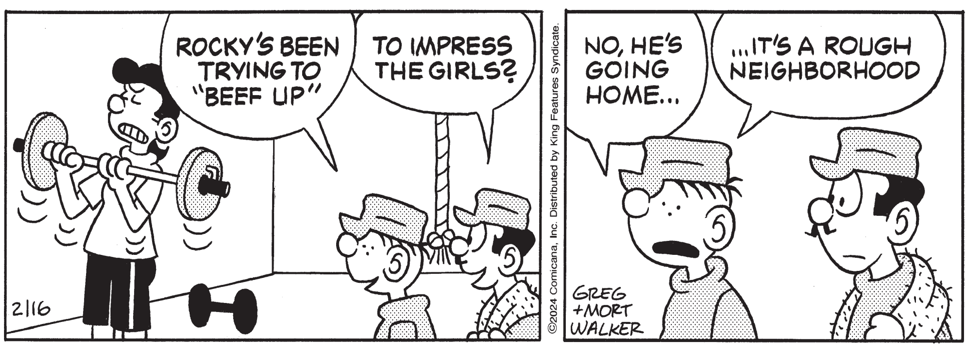
BEETLE BAILEY


ROCKY'S BEEN TRYING TO "BEEF UP"
TO IMPRESS THE GIRLS?
NO, HE'S GOING HOME...
...IT'S A ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD
2/16
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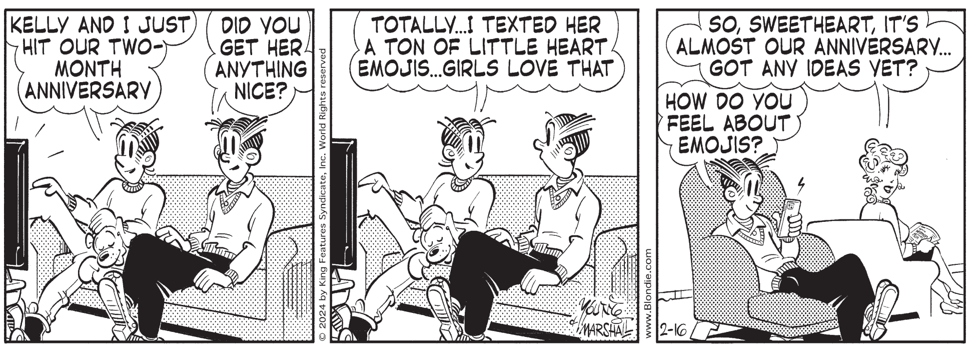
GREG +MORT WALKER

BLONDIE


KELLY AND I JUST HIT OUR TWO-MONTH ANNIVERSARY
DID YOU GET HER ANYTHING NICE?
TOTALLY...I TEXTED HER A TON OF LITTLE HEART EMOJIS...GIRLS LOVE THAT
SO, SWEETHEART, IT'S ALMOST OUR ANNIVERSARY... GOT ANY IDEAS YET?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT EMOJIS?
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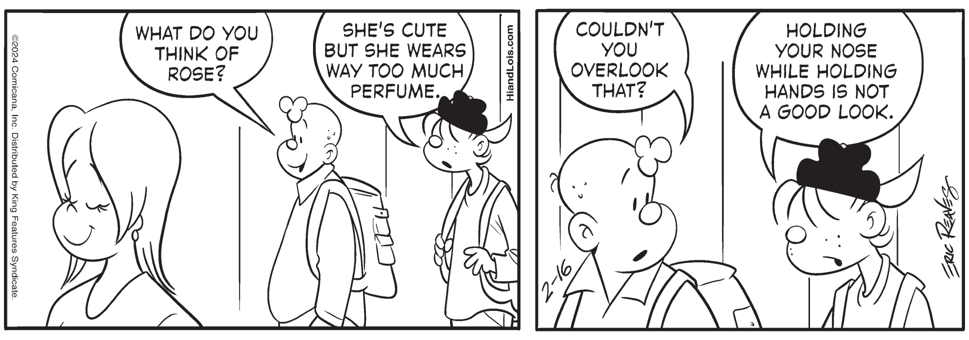
YOUNG & MARSHALL
www.Blondie.com
2-16

HI & LOIS


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ROSE?
SHE'S CUTE BUT SHE WEARS WAY TOO MUCH PERFUME.
COULDN'T YOU OVERLOOK THAT?
HOLDING YOUR NOSE WHILE HOLDING HANDS IS NOT A GOOD LOOK.
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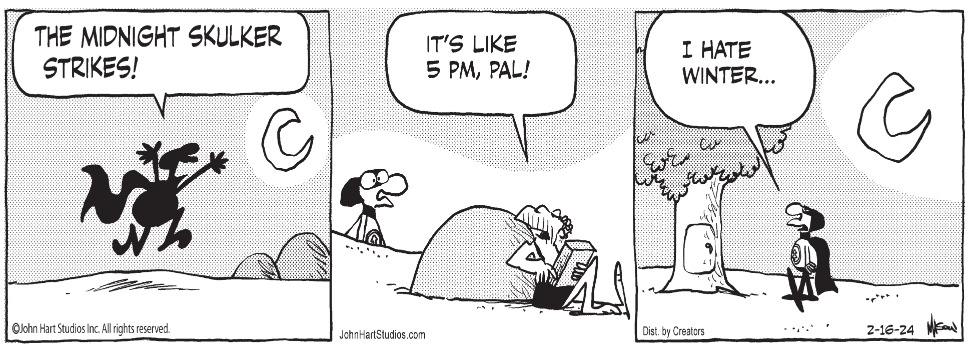
HiandLois.com
2-16
ERIC REAVES

BC


THE MIDNIGHT SKULKER STRIKES!
IT'S LIKE 5 PM, PAL!
I HATE WINTER...
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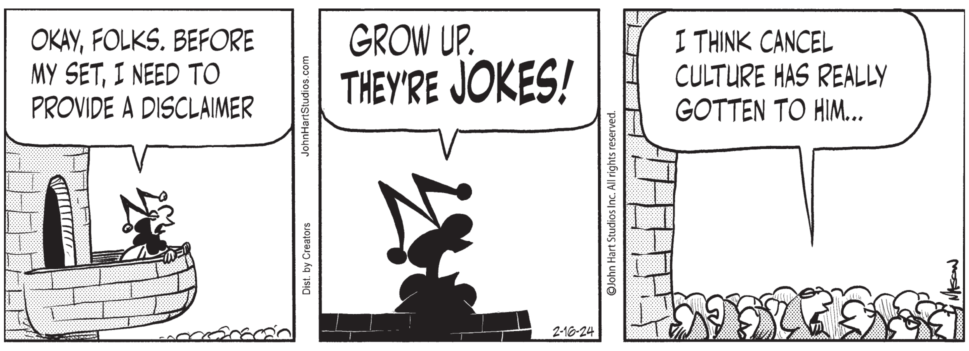
JohnHartStudios.com
Dist. by Creators
2-16-24
MASON

WIZARD OF ID


OKAY, FOLKS. BEFORE MY SET, I NEED TO PROVIDE A DISCLAIMER
GROW UP. THEY'RE JOKES!
I THINK CANCEL CULTURE HAS REALLY GOTTEN TO HIM...
JohnHartStudios.com
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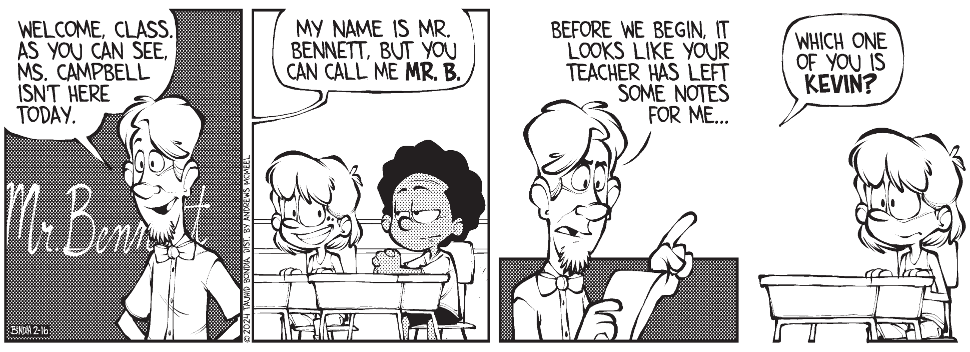
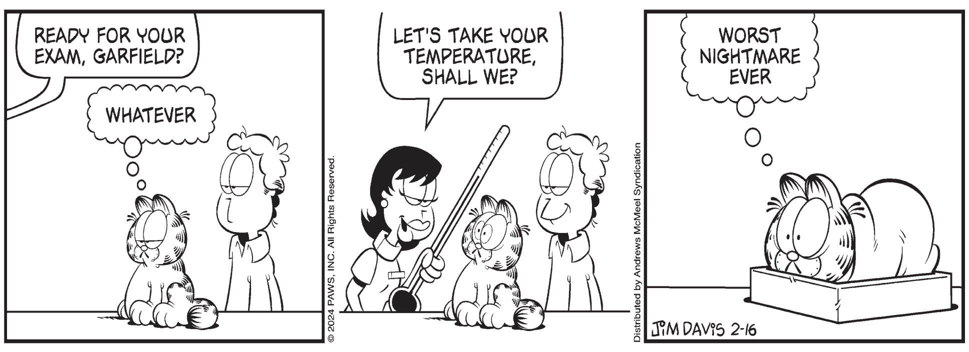
2-16-24
MASON

CRABGRASS


WELCOME, CLASS. AS YOU CAN SEE, MS. CAMPBELL ISN'T HERE TODAY.
Mr. Bennett
MY NAME IS MR. BENNETT, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME MR. B.
BEFORE WE BEGIN, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR TEACHER HAS LEFT SOME NOTES FOR ME...
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS KEVIN?
BONDIA 2-16
© 2024 TAUHID BONDIA. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL

GARFIELD


READY FOR YOUR EXAM, GARFIELD?
WHATEVER
LET'S TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE, SHALL WE?
WORST NIGHTMARE EVER
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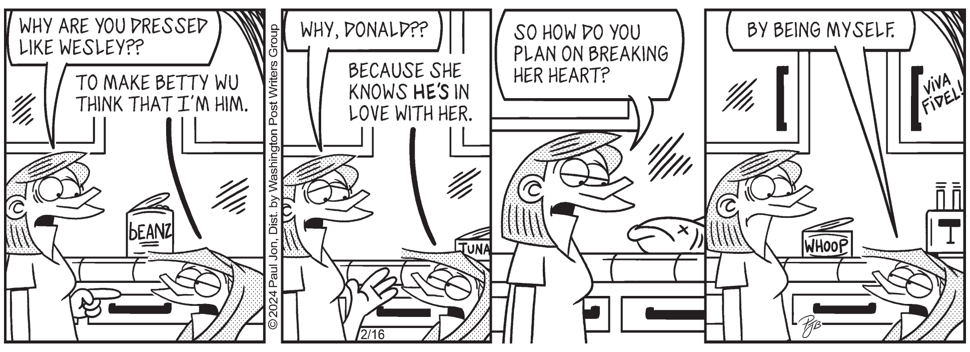
JIM DAVIS 2-16

FORT KNOX


WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE WESLEY??
TO MAKE BETTY WU THINK THAT I'M HIM.
BEANZ
WHY, DONALD??
BECAUSE SHE KNOWS HE'S IN LOVE WITH HER.
TUNA
SO HOW DO YOU PLAN ON BREAKING HER HEART?
BY BEING MYSELF.
VIVA FIDEL!
WHOOP
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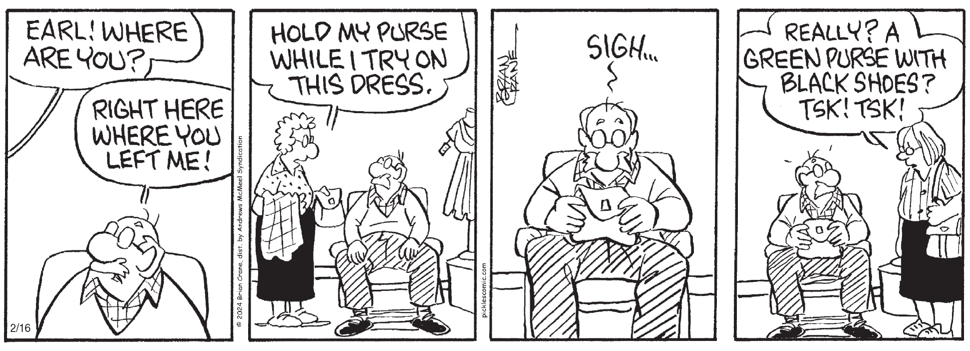
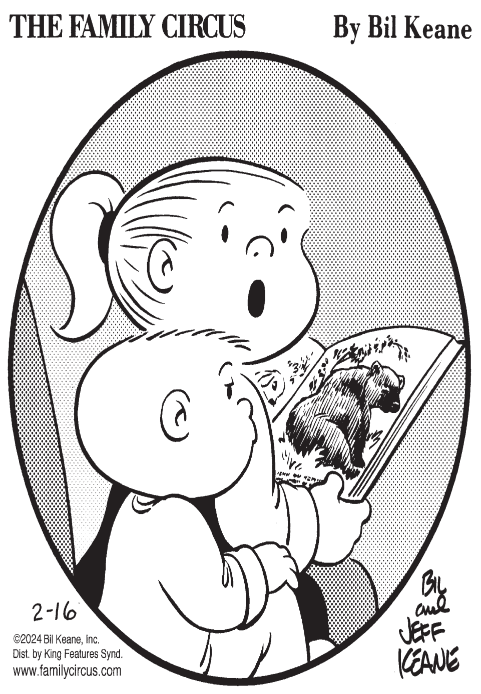
2/16

PICKLES


EARL! WHERE ARE YOU?
RIGHT HERE WHERE YOU LEFT ME!
HOLD MY PURSE WHILE I TRY ON THIS DRESS.
SIGH...
REALLY? A GREEN PURSE WITH BLACK SHOES? TSK! TSK!
BRIAN CRANE
2/16
© 2024 Brian Crane, dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
picklescomic.com

FAMILY CIRCUS


THE FAMILY CIRCUS
By Bil Keane
2-16
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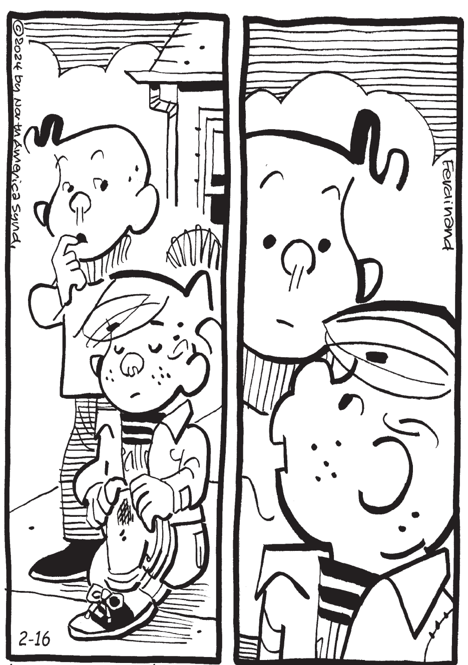
www.familycircus.com
BIL and JEFF KEANE

"Why do bears hyperventilate in the winter?"

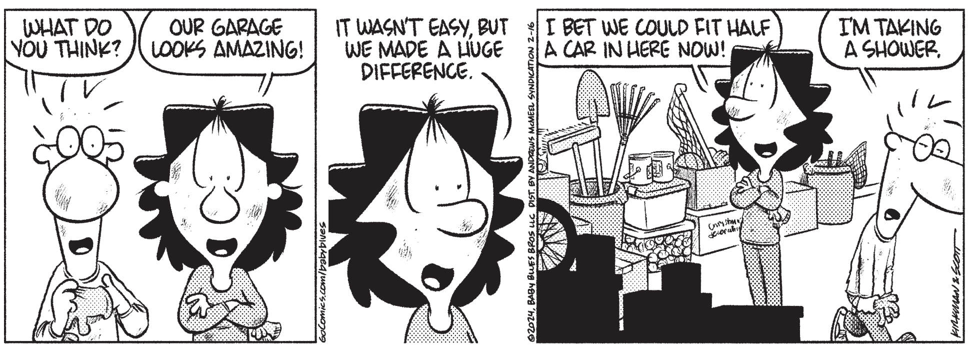
DENNIS THE MENACE


©2024 by North America Synd.
Ferdinand
2-16

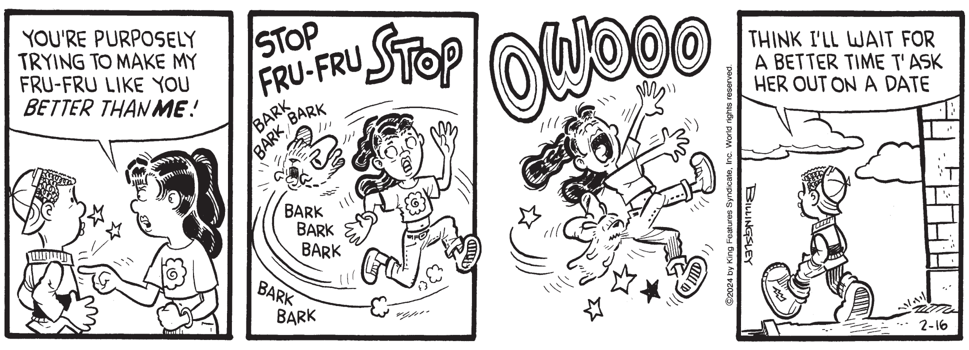
"AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN **CRY**!"

"I'LL DO THAT WHEN I GET **HOME**."

BABY BLUES


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OUR GARAGE LOOKS AMAZING!
IT WASN'T EASY, BUT WE MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.
I BET WE COULD FIT HALF A CAR IN HERE NOW!
I'M TAKING A SHOWER.
GoComics.com/babyblues
©2024, BABY BLUES BROS LLC DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION 2-16
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

CURTIS


YOU'RE PURPOSELY TRYING TO MAKE MY FRU-FRU LIKE YOU BETTER THAN ME!
STOP FRU-FRU STOP
BARK BARK BARK
BARK BARK BARK
BARK BARK
OWOOO
THINK I'LL WAIT FOR A BETTER TIME T' ASK HER OUT ON A DATE
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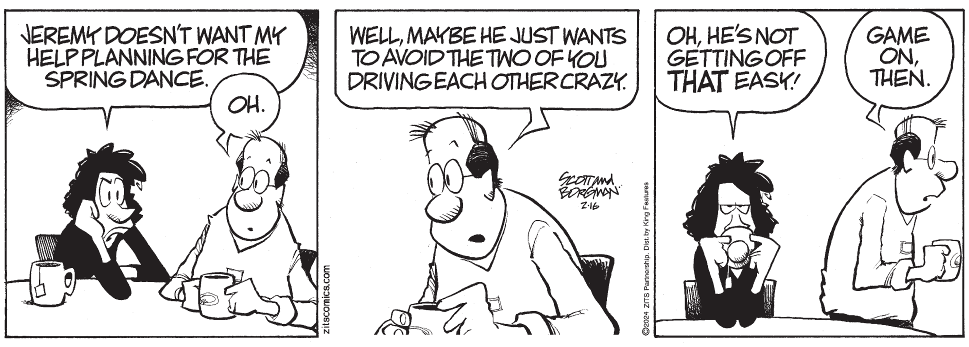
BILLINGSLEY
2-16

ZITS


JEREMY DOESN'T WANT MY HELP PLANNING FOR THE SPRING DANCE.
OH.
WELL, MAYBE HE JUST WANTS TO AVOID THE TWO OF YOU DRIVING EACH OTHER CRAZY.
OH, HE'S NOT GETTING OFF THAT EASY!
GAME ON, THEN.
zitscomics.com
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 2-16
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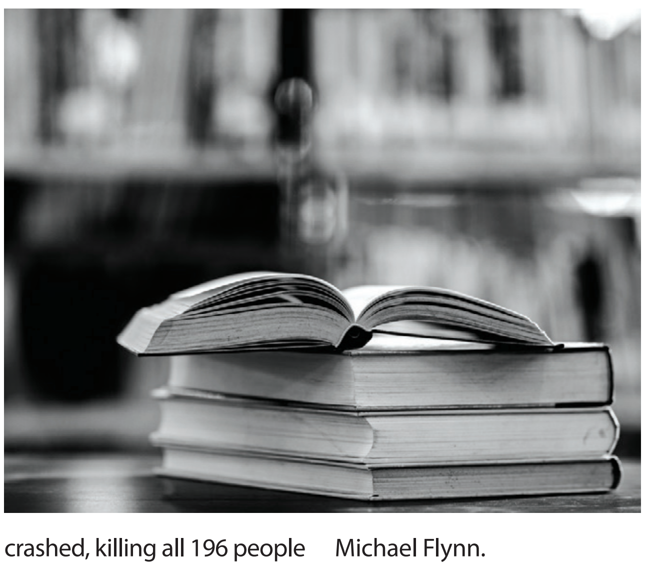
TODAY IN HISTORY



Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the moniker "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its independence from the Russian Empire. (Lithuania, which was occupied by the Soviet Union, then Nazi Germany, then the Soviet Union again during World War II, renewed its independence in 1990).

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1960, the nuclear-powered radar picket submarine USS Triton departed New London, Connecticut, on the first submerged circumnavigation by a vessel.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1996, eleven people were killed in a fiery collision between an Amtrak passenger train and a Maryland commuter train in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300 trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board, plus seven on the ground.

In 2001, the United States and Britain staged air strikes against radar stations and air defense command centers in Iraq.

In 2009, in Stamford, Connecticut, a 200-pound chimpanzee named Travis went berserk, severely mauling its owner's friend, Charla Nash; Travis was shot dead by police.

In 2011, bookstore chain Borders filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and said it would close nearly a third of its stores. (Borders closed all of its remaining stores in September 2011.)

In 2012, New York Times correspondent and former Associated Press reporter Anthony Shadid, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, died of an apparent asthma attack in Syria while reporting on the uprising against its president; he was 43.

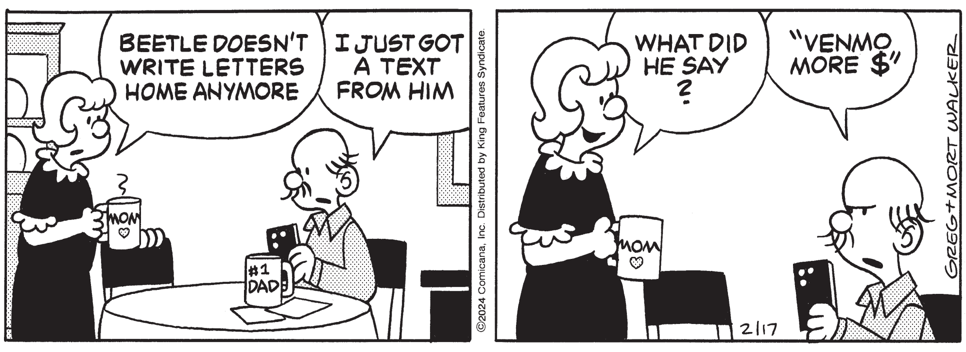
In 2017, in the first full-length news conference of his presidency, Donald Trump denounced what he called the "criminal" leaks that took down his top national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

In 2018, in an indictment, special counsel Robert Mueller accused 13 Russians of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. presidential election with a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Donald Trump.

In 2023, Tim McCarver, the All-Star catcher and Hall of Fame broadcaster who during 60 years in baseball won two World Series titles with the St. Louis Cardinals, died at age 81.

Today's birthdays: Jazz/pop singer-actor Peggy King is 94. Actor William Katt is 73. Actor LeVar Burton is 67. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 66. International Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 65. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 63. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 59. Actor Sarah Clarke is 53. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 51. Actor Mahershala Ali is 50. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 42. Actor Chloe Wepper is 38. Pop-rock singer Ryan Follese (Hot Chelle Rae) is 37. Sen. John Ossoff, D-Ga., is 37. Rock musician Danielle Haim is 35. Actor Elizabeth Olsen is 35.

BEETLE BAILEY


BEETLE DOESN'T WRITE LETTERS HOME ANYMORE
I JUST GOT A TEXT FROM HIM
MOM
#1 DAD
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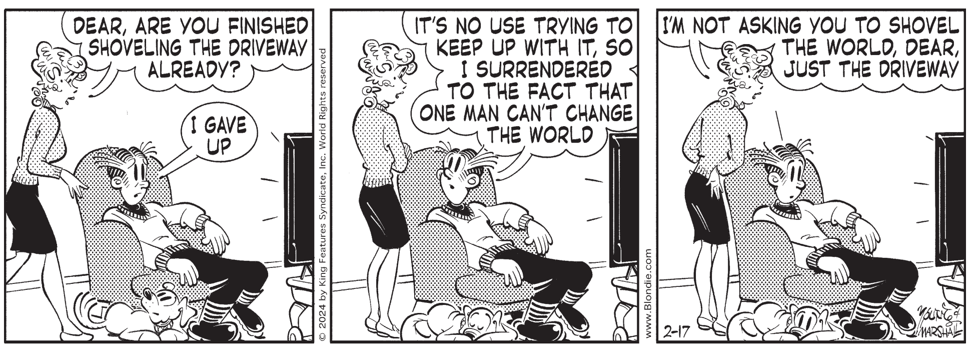
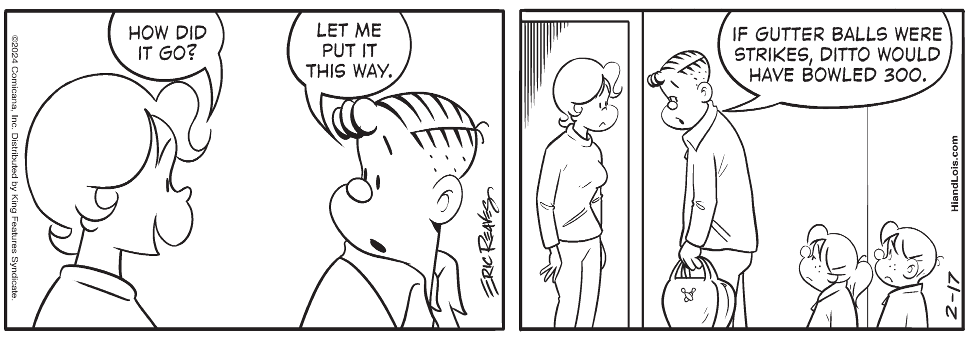
WHAT DID HE SAY ?
"VENMO MORE $"
MOM
GREG+MORT WALKER
2/17

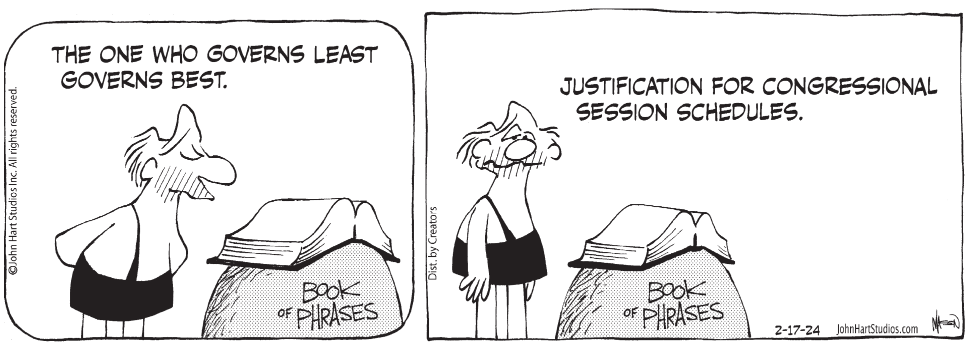
BLONDIE


DEAR, ARE YOU FINISHED SHOVELING THE DRIVEWAY ALREADY?
I GAVE UP
© 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH IT, SO I SURRENDERED TO THE FACT THAT ONE MAN CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD
www.Blondie.com
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO SHOVEL THE WORLD, DEAR, JUST THE DRIVEWAY
2-17
MARSHALL

HI & LOIS


©2024 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
HOW DID IT GO?
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY.
ERIC REAVES
IF GUTTER BALLS WERE STRIKES, DITTO WOULD HAVE BOWLED 300.
HIandLois.com
2-17

BC


THE ONE WHO GOVERNS LEAST GOVERNS BEST.
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BOOK OF PHRASES
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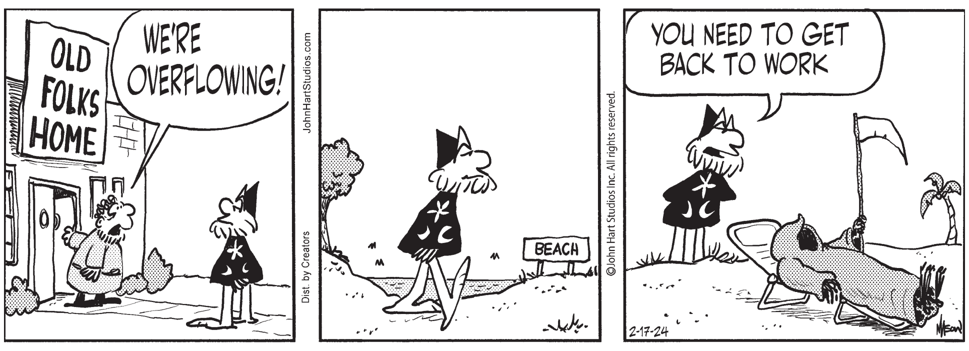
JUSTIFICATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL SESSION SCHEDULES.
BOOK OF PHRASES
2-17-24
JohnHartStudios.com
MASON

WIZARD OF ID


OLD FOLKS HOME
WE'RE OVERFLOWING!
JohnHartStudios.com
Dist. by Creators
BEACH
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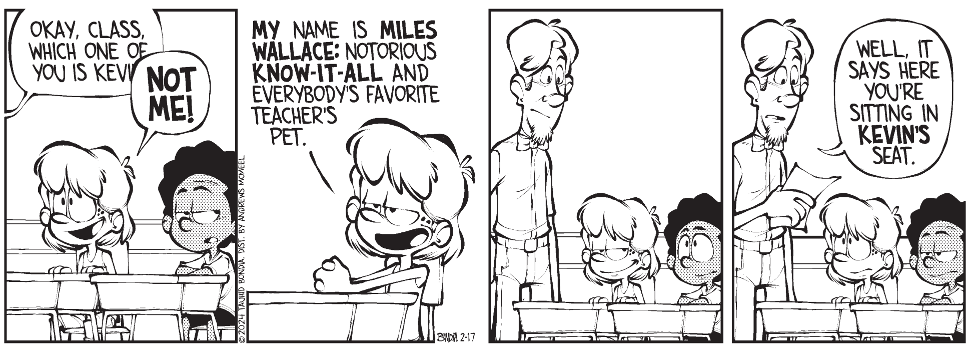
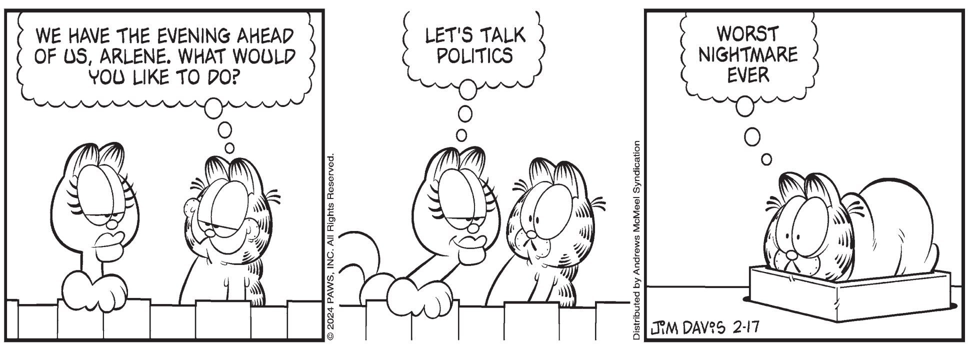
YOU NEED TO GET BACK TO WORK
2-17-24
MASON

CRABGRASS


OKAY, CLASS, WHICH ONE OF YOU IS KEVI
NOT ME!
© 2024 TAUHID BONDIA. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL
MY NAME IS MILES WALLACE: NOTORIOUS KNOW-IT-ALL AND EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE TEACHER'S PET.
BONDIA 2-17
WELL, IT SAYS HERE YOU'RE SITTING IN KEVIN'S SEAT.

GARFIELD


WE HAVE THE EVENING AHEAD OF US, ARLENE. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?
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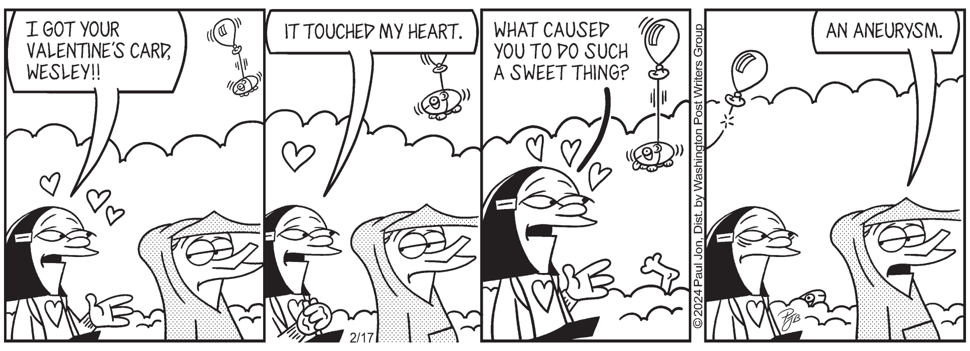
LET'S TALK POLITICS
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
WORST NIGHTMARE EVER
JIM DAVIS 2-17

FORT KNOX


I GOT YOUR VALENTINE'S CARD, WESLEY!!
IT TOUCHED MY HEART.
2/17
WHAT CAUSED YOU TO DO SUCH A SWEET THING?
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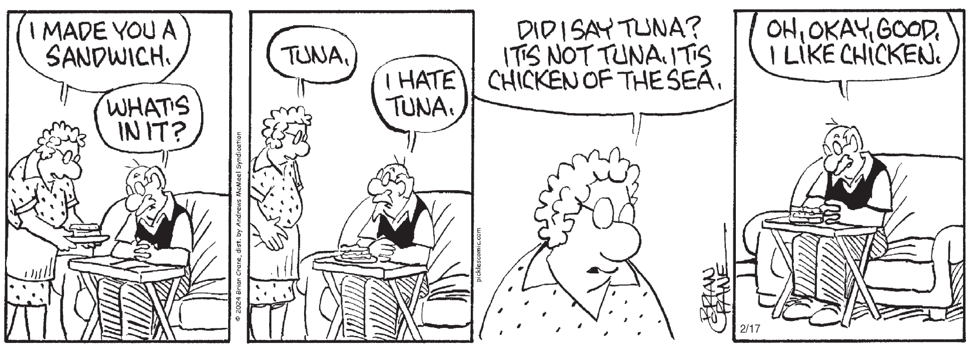
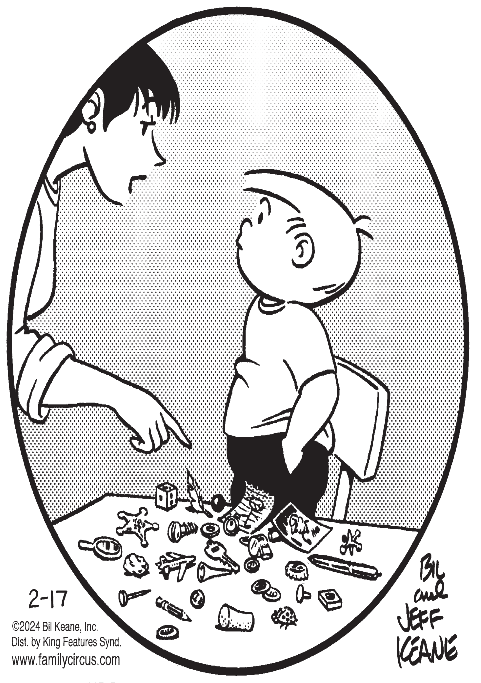
AN ANEURYSM.
PJB

PICKLES


I MADE YOU A SANDWICH.
WHAT'S IN IT?
© 2024 Brian Crane, dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
TUNA.
I HATE TUNA.
picklescomic.com
DID I SAY TUNA? IT'S NOT TUNA. IT'S CHICKEN OF THE SEA.
BRIAN CRANE
OH, OKAY, GOOD. I LIKE CHICKEN.
2/17

FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane


2-17
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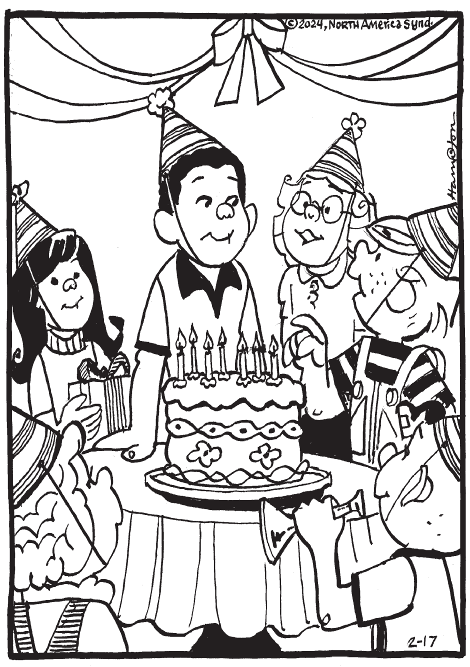
www.familycircus.com
BIL and JEFF KEANE

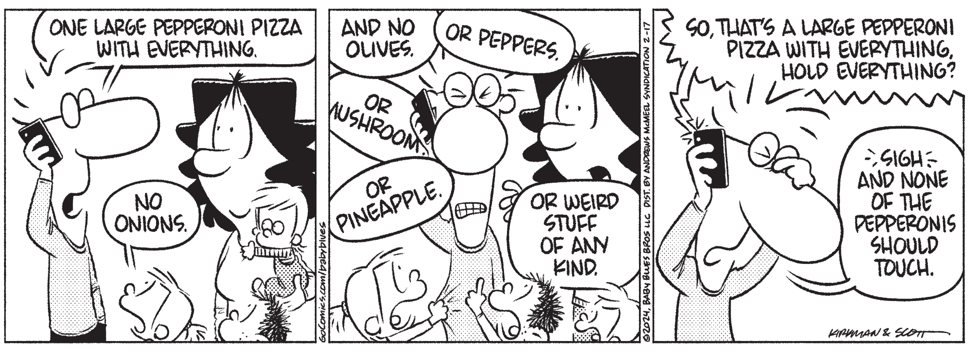
"Now the other pocket."

DENNIS THE MENACE

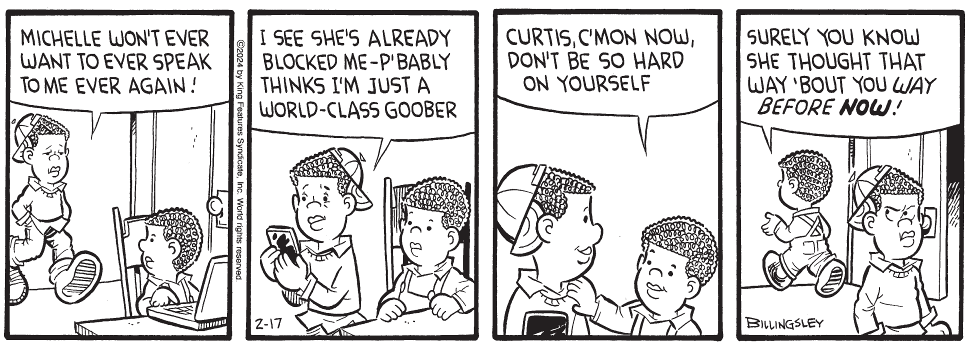

©2024, North America Synd.
Hamilton
2-17

"NOW THAT'S THE BEST CANDLE HOLDER I'VE EVER SEEN!"

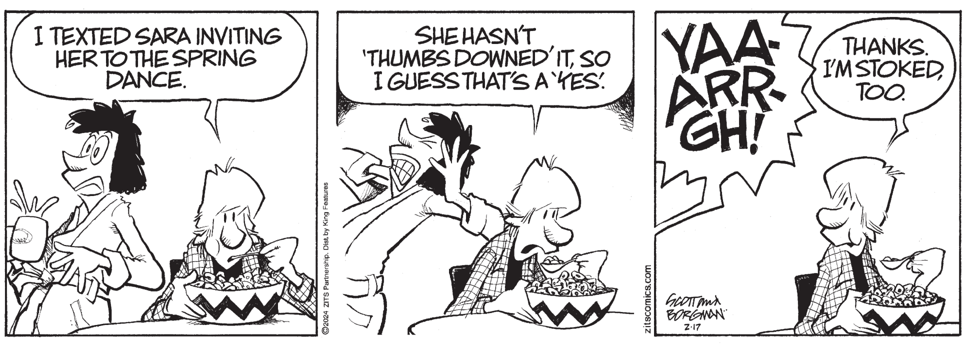
BABY BLUES


ONE LARGE PEPPERONI PIZZA WITH EVERYTHING.
NO ONIONS.
GoComics.com/babyblues
AND NO OLIVES.
OR PEPPERS.
OR MUSHROOMS.
OR PINEAPPLE.
OR WEIRD STUFF OF ANY KIND.
©2024, BABY BLUES BROS LLC. DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION 2-17
SO, THAT'S A LARGE PEPPERONI PIZZA WITH EVERYTHING, HOLD EVERYTHING?
SIGH AND NONE OF THE PEPPERONIS SHOULD TOUCH.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

CURTIS


MICHELLE WON'T EVER WANT TO EVER SPEAK TO ME EVER AGAIN!
©2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
I SEE SHE'S ALREADY BLOCKED ME-P'BABLY THINKS I'M JUST A WORLD-CLASS GOOBER
2-17
CURTIS, C'MON NOW, DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF
SURELY YOU KNOW SHE THOUGHT THAT WAY 'BOUT YOU WAY BEFORE NOW!
BILLINGSLEY

ZITS


I TEXTED SARA INVITING HER TO THE SPRING DANCE.
©2024 ZITS Partnership. Dist. by King Features
SHE HASN'T 'THUMBS DOWNED' IT, SO I GUESS THAT'S A 'YES'.
zitscomics.com
YAA-ARR-GH!
THANKS. I'M STOKED, TOO.
SCOTT and BORGMAN 2-17

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 17, 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president.

On this date:

In 1815, the United States and Britain exchanged the instruments of ratification for the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

In 1863, the International Red Cross was founded in Geneva.

In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union ship USS Housatonic was rammed and sunk in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, by the Confederate hand-cranked submarine HL Hunley in the first naval attack of its kind; the Hunley also sank.

In 1897, the forerunner of the National PTA, the National Congress of Mothers, convened its first meeting in Washington.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces invaded Eniwetok Atoll, encountering little initial resistance from Imperial Japanese troops. (The Americans secured the atoll less than a week later.)

In 1959, the United States launched Vanguard 2, a satellite that carried meteorological equipment.

In 1964, the Supreme Court, in Wesberry v. Sanders, ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon departed the White House with his wife, Pat, on a historic trip to China.

In 1988, Lt. Col. William Higgins, a Marine Corps officer serving with a United Nations truce monitoring group, was kidnapped in southern Lebanon by Iranian-backed terrorists (he was later slain by his captors).

In 1995, Colin Ferguson was convicted of six counts of murder in the December 1993 Long Island Rail Road shootings (he was later sentenced to a minimum of 200 years in prison).

In 2013, Danica Patrick won the Daytona 500 pole, becoming the first woman to secure the top spot for any Sprint Cup race.

In 2014, Jimmy Fallon made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 2015, Vice President Joe Biden opened a White House summit on countering extremism and radicalization, saying the United States needed to ensure that immigrants were fully included in the fabric of American society to prevent violent ideologies from taking root at home.

In 2021, Rush Limbaugh, the talk radio host who became the voice of American conservatism, died at age 70, a year after he announced he had Stage Four lung cancer.

In 2022, Anna Shcherbakova won a stunning gold medal in women's figure skating at the Beijing Games, while Russian teammate Kamila Valieva tumbled all the way out of the medals after a mistake-filled end to her controversial Olympics.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Christina Pickles is 89. Actor Brenda Fricker is 79. Actor Becky Ann Baker is 71. Actor Rene Russo is 70. Actor Richard Karn is 68. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 62. Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan is 61. Actor-comedian Larry, the Cable Guy is 61. TV personality Rene Syler is 61. Movie director Michael Bay is 60. Singer Chante Moore is 57. Rock musician Timothy J. Mahoney (311) is 54. Actor Dominic Purcell is 54. Olympic gold and silver medal skier Tommy Moe is 54. Actor Denise Richards is 53. Rock singer-musician Billie Joe Armstrong (Green Day) is 52. Actor Jerry O'Connell is 50. Country singer Bryan White is 50. Actor Kelly Carlson is 48. Actor Ashton Holmes is 46. Actor Conrad Ricamora is 45. Actor Jason Ritter is 44. TV personality Paris Hilton is 43. Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt is 43. TV host Daphne Oz is 38. Actor Chord Overstreet is 35.

OBITUARY

Mary Jo Jones Ball

Mary Jo Jones Ball, 90, of Hanover, entered this life on June 3, 1933 in Jefferson County. She was the loving daughter of the late John Lester and Mary Josephine Stewart Jones. She was a graduate of Central High School on Rykers Ridge. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Hanover College and then her Master's Degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, in Education. She was united in marriage to James C. Ball on Aug. 1, 1954 in Pleasant, Indiana. This happy union of 69 years was blessed with three sons, James, Richard and Donald.

She taught math at Madison Jr. High School for 25 years before retiring in 1988. She was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church and of Gideons International-Madison Camp. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, and gardening. She loved spending time with her family especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary Jo died on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at 3:23 p.m. at the Thornton Terrace Health Campus in Hanover.

Mary Jo will be missed by her loving husband of 69 years, James C. Ball of Hanover; her sons, James R. Ball and his wife, Carrie of Indianapolis, Richard L. Ball of Madison, Donald K. Ball of Hanover; her grandchildren, Ashley, Christopher, Jacqueline, Caleb, Nathaniel, Isaac, Mary, Simeon, Rebecca, Austin, Cameron, Susannah, Andrew; her great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Tayor and Jackson Taylor and Asher Ball; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Lester Jones; her mother, Mary Josephine Stewart Jones; her brother, Donald L. Jones; her sister, Patricia Louise "Pat" Jones Glore.

Funeral services will be conducted on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at 11 a.m., by Pastor Mike Hamby at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2632 Michigan Road in Madison. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison.

Friends may visit Friday, from 4-7 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, and Saturday from 10 a.m. until time of the service at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2632 Michigan Road in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gideon's Memorial Bible Plan. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre or at the church. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Programs gradually begin at new jail

BY BOB DEMAREE

A month since inmates were transferred into the new Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Criminal Justice Center, Chief Deputy Laura Pickel provided an update at Tuesday's County Council meeting that new programs are gradually being established in the state-of-the-art facility.

"We just started the GED program back up at the new facility. We also started religious practices. We still have our 24-hour-a-day medical care, and we implemented daily mental health," said Pickel.

She said the jail is averaging between 145 and 152 inmates daily. At the downtown jail, because of the limited capacity, some inmates were housed in jails in other counties. "All of the inmates that could be brought back to the county got brought back within a week of us moving into the facility," she said.

The new jail has a capacity of 300, enough that it could currently house inmates from other counties but Pickel said that they are not ready to do that just yet. "We need to make sure that everything is up and functioning and we can handle our own before we implement adding other people. So, until we're sure of that we can manage it with our staff, there's no reason to overflow our staff with more."

IN OTHER BUSINESS

- Commissioner David Bramer said seven candidates have interviewed for the county 911 director's position vacated by Susie Lawrence's retirement in January. He said the 911 board is expected to make a decision Monday on a recommendation to the Commissioners.
- Approved a temporary loan of county highway funds from the local roads and streets funds totaling $400,000 to two other funds with one receiving $300,000 and the other receiving $100,000. County Auditor Heather Huff said monies will be repaid by the end of the year, and that the reason for the shortage amounts is due to reimbursements that haven't yet been paid to the county.
- Approved transferring $19,300 to pay for medical scan systems inside the medical padded rooms in the new jail. She said it doesn't replace the checks that the officers do "but it's another line of reassurance for us as far as trying to keep those people safe in those rooms," said Pickel. Those funds had previously been used to pay for tasers, which she said owes only one more payment before it is all paid off.
- Appropriated $21,500 to the budget for public defender supplemental fund — $7,500 for pauper counsel, $4,000 for training and seminars, $5,000 for guardian ad litem and $5,000 for equipment. "It's more of an emergency fund for public defender expenses," said Devon Sharpe, the chief public defender for the county.
- Approved an additional appropriation of $6,867 from county general to provide for increased pay for a probation officer with 20 years experience in accordance with state statute. Huff said it was discovered the probation officer met that criteria after the first payroll, and the increase is necessary because state statute dictates minimum pay for probation officers.
- Approved an update to the salary ordinance for program assistant and secretary positions in the county extension office by switching the amounts for each — the secretary position having the higher pay.

Britt Copeland, Jefferson County extension educator, noted Bess Adams retired from the office after 20 years, and there currently is a search to replace her. Copeland said Kasie Bachmann, the secretary, has also worked in the extension office for 20 years. "Because she is a valued employee, and will be the senior individual when we hire a new staff member, I was hoping to switch our appropriation for those two salaries so she would be the higher paid individual," Copeland said.

- Approved $1,000 from American Rescue Plan funds to provide a budget for the Jefferson County Broadband Task Force for marketing and awareness efforts.
- Approved County Council appointments for the year — Dwayne May, Emergency Management Agency Board; Chris Shelton, Insurance Board; Heather Foy, Public Defender Board; Ray Denning, Community Corrections Board and Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission; Ray Black Jr., 911 Board and Plan Commission; Gary Copeland, Visit Madison Inc.; and Pam Crozier, Southeastern Indiana Recycling District.
- Huff said 1,522 cards have been sold so far for county trash service, an increase from the 1,444 that were sold through February last year. "The trash truck drivers are doing their job and they are making this program a success," she said.

GIRLS INC.

Photos by Bob Demaree

Above: Some girls were making valentines Wednesday on Valentine's Day at Girls Inc. Sky Lynn Butters (left), a staff member at Girls Inc., provides help to these girls.

Left: A warm and sunny winter day on Wednesday brought girls outside to play with hula hoops at Girls Inc.

Short-term rental permit brings concerns about too many Airbnbs

BY BOB DEMAREE

The application for a conditional use to permit short-term rental at 107 East Third Street received unanimous approval Monday by the city's Board of Zoning Appeals but not before concerns were raised about the proliferation of Airbnbs in downtown Madison.

The request was made by Jerry Shields, the owner of the property, to allow short-term rentals for the three-bedroom home for up to six people. "We set the house rules up in a way to try to attract the people we want to rent, a family group, to try to discourage the people we don't want, make sure we're respectful for the neighbors and make sure it's quiet, and will respect the property and our investing in the property, to have fun but not disturb people," said Shields.

However, Sandy Palmer expressed concern about number of short-term rentals in the city, and how that is changing the character of Madison. "There are over 81 short term rentals in historic downtown Madison, and over 166 in the Madison area. We believe approving more will be injurious to the general welfare of our residential neighborhoods."

Palmer presented signatures of neighbors who have concerns about 107 East Third Street being a short-term rental "We ask the Board of Zoning Appeal to deny the application," she said, citing concerns about how it will impact the neighborhood.

She lives at 105 East Third Street with her husband, Steve, noting their house shares a wall with 107 East Third Street, which she cited as one of 103 shared wall houses in the city. "We would never have purchased our home if it had shared a wall with a short-term rental. Our ability to sell will be substantially adversely affected if this conditional use permit is approved."

Palmer expressed, "Where one side of a duplex is residential, conditional use permits should not be allowed for the second side without the consent of both owners in our opinion. We purchased our home in downtown Madison to live among neighbors who care about this home."

> **"Years from now when the character and the fiber of what we love about Madison is gone, remember we always voted for these things because that were economically fine. The more and more we have of these, people aren't living downtown, we're just a tourist town. I don't want to go to Nashville, and drink on the streets and dance. I don't want Madison to become that. And that's what we're becoming."**
>
> *— Sandy Palmer*

Palmer said that she expects that due to the size of 107 East Third Street that it "could accommodate pretty good parties. We figured large groups are going to rent a big house, not a couple coming to Madison for a quiet weekend. Noise will be a problem as well as parking."

However, Shields said that's not what he wants, noting that he will have a screening process and has developed strong rules.

BZA chairman Scott Baldwin was particularly noted one that emphasized renters must abide by the city's noise ordinance, and that "violation will result in police being called, termination of your reservation and security deposit retained." Baldwin called that strong language "impressive."

Baldwin said with that with large number of short-term rentals, it "seems the whole downtown slowly changing over to that. We've had many of these applications here. We always command a set of rules, and as staff can testify, there's never been complaints," he said.

However, Carrie Kemper, who lives in the 700 block of East Main Street, disagreed, noting her home is next to a short-term rental with a shared wall and it's been constant chaos, citing "all the things I have to endure 7 days a week, all hours of the day."

Kemper asked member of the BZA to "put themselves in the place of residents in this area who have been negatively impacted by these businesses mixed into residential areas. Take a moment to imagine yourself, your children, your grandchildren, aging parents or family members owning a home next to a short-term rental that is a constant nuisance and a disturbance to your everyday lives. … We purchased homes here for the small town feel in this wonderful town filled with character and history. Our peace and serenity is now being choked out by the likes of transient nature of short-term rentals.… the housing it is taking away from people who actually want to live in Madison and pour into this community."

Palmer said the proliferation of Airbnbs is changing downtown Madison. "Years from now when the character and the fiber of what we love about Madison is gone, remember we always voted for these things because that were economically fine. The more and more we have of these, people aren't living downtown, we're just a tourist town. I don't want to go to Nashville, and drink on the streets and dance. I don't want Madison to become that. And that's what we're becoming. We won't have children going to school. We won't have people going to the grocery store because they're only here on the weekend. The fabric of Madison is being eroded."

Baldwin established three conditions for the BZA's approval — that house rules are ahered to, maximum of six people allowed inside the unit and mandatory use of all screen procedures by Airbnb.

After the board approved the variance, Baldwin said, "All I can say is, keep a watch. If you don't like what happens there, document it, call the police, come to City Council meetings, call your city councilman and let his phone ring off the hook. When there are abuses for any of these uses, when you people organize, you show up, you make yourself heard, things get done. …it's in your power but you have to do your work."

IN OTHER BUSINESS

- Approved conditional use permit at 301 Jefferson Street for Vintage Lanes LLC for duckpin bowling, wine bar and an apartment to be operated by Matt and Dan Chandler.

Matt Chandler said in the warehouse portion of the building along Second Street there will be a two-story duckpin bowling center with four duckpin bowling lanes on each floor. He said the three-story portion of building facing Jefferson County will become a wine bar on the first floor with the second and third floors becoming a two-story.

Chandler expects that the facility will open for business in the first or second quarter of 2025 with the goal of opening it all at once. "The duckpin bowling and the wine bar complement one another," he said. Any food would likely be catered. "We will not be cooking food on site," he said.

- Tabled an application from Tirrie Jenkins for Legacy of Hope for a conditional use permit for a room and boarding house at 524 Jefferson Street to provide housing to individuals and families seeking immediate housing who are agreeable to sharing the housing space.

Her brother, Jarvis Jenkins said the property "has been an atrocity" with many incidents in which police had to be called and other problem. But now that he and his sister have control, that's going to change. "It's a dump but it won't be that. It will have somebody living in the carriage house that will make sure every single rule is followed. What it was, it's not going to be close to being." Tirrie Jenkins said room and boarding is to help people in need, but will be managed and supervised.

There were several people who expressed opposition to BZA granting the conditional use permit. There were also concerns by BZA board members about the safety of the building due to a wall that needs repair. Board members were also wanting more details about how the room and boarding house will be managed.

The vote was 4-1 to table with board member Karl Eaglin voting against because "we need the building safe. If it's not safe, you can't have people in it. You can't allow people in an unsafe structure," feeling more time will be needed to make it safe, and he felt that at this time the application should be denied.

With it being tabled, the matter will again be considered at the Monday, March 11, meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Baldwin told Tirrie Jenkins to "bring back the details" that the BZA wants.

MCHS to perform 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison Consolidated High School's Madison Theatre will be the first school in Indiana to perform the new high school edition of the Broadway play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" next fall.

Broadway Licensing Global selected 29 schools to become the first in their U.S. state or territory to perform the new high school edition of the hit Broadway play.

Broadway Licensing Global's "Wands at the Ready" contest selected the winners. Schools were asked to describe why their school or community is the most "magical" place to produce the Olivier- and Tony-winning play.

Winning schools will be able to perform the work later this year, between Oct. 15 and Nov. 10. The productions will be considered the play's first official stagings, though they will follow developmental pilot productions.

The high school version of the hit play has been developed by the work's original creative team, including playwright Jack Thorne, director John Tiffany, producers Sonia Friedman and Colin Callender with approval by "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling. The adaptation, announced last year, shortens the production's runtime, along with creating solutions that make the professional production's high-tech wizardry possible regardless of budget scale.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is based on an original story by J.K. Rowling, Jack Thorne, and John Tiffany. The play takes place 19 years after the source material book series, and follows Harry Potter's son, Albus, and his friendship with Scorpius, the son of rival Draco Malfoy, in their first year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The original West End production premiered in 2016, receiving 11 Olivier Award nominations and winning nine, including Best New Play. The Broadway transfer opened at The Lyric Theatre in 2018, then received 10 Tony Award nominations and won six, including Best Play.

Madison Theatre's next production is "Oklahoma" to be performed March 8-10 at Opal Sherman Auditorium.

Plants now for sale from Pollinator Action Group

BY COURIER STAFF

The Pollinator Action Group is taking orders until March 20, offering 18 kinds of nursery-grown plants for $3 each. Packets of seeds for $1 each and T-shirts for $12 also can be purchased.

A brochure about the plants and an order form will be online at two places on Facebook at the Pollinator Action Group page and at the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District page at the county's site. The brochure and order form also can be picked up at the Soil & Water Conservation District's office, 3767 West State Road 256 next to the fairgrounds.

Orders also can be placed by calling Kristin Miller, the district coordinator, at 512-265-7609. Payment must be sent to her before the telephone order will be included.

All payments must be made by check or the exact amount in cash when the order is placed.

Orders with payment can be taken or mailed to the Soil & Water Conservation District office, where there is a secure drop box inside the building if Miller is not there. She will mail receipts. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The mailing address is 3767 West State Road 256, Madison, IN 47250.

The pickup date for orders is May 3 at the fairgrounds.

To get green thumbs ready, there will be a free garden-prep workshop March 5 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Soil & Water Conservation District Office. Reservations by March 4 are required. To make a reservation email the workshop leader, Megan Ayers, at mayers@urbansoilhealth.org

The Pollinator Action Group began as a loosely knit group of people interested in understanding pollinators such as butterflies, and promoting and protecting their habitats. The group later came under the wing of the Soil & Water Conservation District. The group had its first plant sale in 2019 and sold almost 6,000 plants. That year the group planted six demonstration habitats in Madison and Hanover.

Miller, of the Soil & Water Conservation District, said volunteers are needed to maintain those habitats, organize the orders when they arrive from the nursery, and help with pickup.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

To volunteer, contact Kristin Miller at her email address, Kristin.miller@jeffersoncounty.in.gov.

Cindy Warrick

Concrete workers were busy finishing the floor in the new 10,000-square-foot DG Market in Bedford recently. The business, which will be the town's first grocery retailer in several years, expects to complete construction later this month but an opening date has not been set.

Bedford approves sewer variance for DG Market

BY CINDY WARRICK
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Bedford City Commission last week approved a temporary variance to allow the new DG Market being developed on U.S. 42 to operate for up to three months on a septic system until city sewage lines can be connected to the business.

The approval came at a special meeting of the Commission after Will Stevens, project engineer for Dollar General's new DG Market, 1067 Highway 42, asked for a variance on the store's sewer hookup.

Working through unexpected placement of the sewer connection, the Commissioners approved a three-month variance allowing a 1,500-gallon septic tank with certified pump to be temporarily placed at the rear of the property. A waste hauling contract must accompany usage of the tank and once sewer connection is established to the building, DG will own the tank and pump, but the store must be connected to and use the city's sewer system.

Stevens said the building is slated to be completed by Friday, Feb. 22, but an opening date could not be confirmed by corporate headquarters.

"Dollar General's current location at 868 Highway 421 North in Bedford plans to remain open to continue serving Trimble County customers," Stevens said.

The new 10,000-square-foot DG Market will sell much of the same merchandise as the existing store but also offer expanded produce, refrigerated and frozen food, dairy products and an assortment of fresh meats as Bedford's first grocery-type store in several years. The fresh produce will include a curated assortment of lettuce, tomatoes, onions, apples, strawberries, potatoes, sweet potatoes, lemons, limes, salad mixes, and more covering about 20 items typically sold in traditional grocery stores and approximately 80% of the produce categories offered by most groceries.

Last month, Dollar General announced it had surpassed a milestone to now offer fresh produce in more than 5,000 stores nationwide which is more individual points of produce distribution than any other U.S. mass retailer or grocer.

The Bedford store plans to employ 10-15 employees, depending on the individual needs of the outlet. Application for available positions is online at www.dollargeneral.com/careers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Book Discussion

Jefferson County Public Library
420 West Main St., Madison
Thursday, Feb. 22 — 5:30 p.m.

Book discussion on the book "All That She Carried" written by Tiya Miles, a renowned historian who traces the life of single object handed down through three generations of Black women with a search to uncover history.

Lecture

Jefferson County Public Library
Thursday, Feb. 22 — 5:30 p.m.

"Know Your History: The Life of George DeBaptiste." DeBaptiste served as agent for the underground railroad, living in both Madison and Detroit.

EVENTS

Auction Dinner

Shawe Memorial High School
201 West State St., Madison
Saturday, Feb. 24 — 6 p.m.

Tables and tickets are available for the 34th annual Prince of Peace Catholic School Auction Dinner. Go to the auction website www.qtego.net/qlink/popauction24 to register for the event and to buy dinner tickets. To reserve tickets or tables, call 812-801-1660.

Young Musicians' Concert

Madison Presbyterian Church
202 Broadway St., Madison
Sunday, Feb. 25 — 3 p.m.

Musicians from the county will present solos and ensembles that were prepared for ISSMA and State Contests.

Environmental Discussion with Doug Tallamy

Hanover College Fitzgibbon Recital Hall
Friday, Feb. 16 — 7 p.m.

Acclaimed ecologist, educator and author Doug Tallamy will discuss the interaction between life-sustaining native plants, insects, birds and other wildlife in our local environments during a special presentation in Fitzgibbon Recital Hall at the Lynn Center for Fine Arts. Tallamy has taught insect-related courses for 42 years as a faculty member in Delaware's Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology. His research strives to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. The lecture is open to the public and free of charge.

Church Luncheon

St. John's United Church of Christ
408 East St., Madison
Friday, Feb. 23 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. John's United Church of Christ will host a soup, sandwich and dessert luncheon at Fellowship Hall off the East Street entrance. Cost is $8.

Homeschool Days

Lanier Mansion
601 West First St., Madison
Tuesday, Feb. 20 — 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Lanier Mansion will host an event, Homeschool Days. Take a tour of the Lanier Mansion, learn how patterns were used in architecture and explore colorful popular patterns. The event, which is for ages 7-13, will cost $10 per child with a 25% discount for Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites members.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Salvation Army Food Bank

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 12-1 p.m.
331 East Main St., Madison

A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags. For more information, call 812-265-2157.

House of Hope Food Pantry

100 East Second St., Madison
Tuesdays — 5-7 p.m.
Fridays — 9-11 a.m.

A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison. Please arrive at the pantry 15 minutes prior to closing to be served.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS

Jesus Clothes Closet

Trinity Methodist Church, Madison
Mondays — 9-11a.m.

Jesus Clothes Closet at Trinity Methodist Church, 412 W. Main St., will distribute free clothing for those in need each Monday. For info call 812-866-4843.

SENIOR EVENTS

Madison Senior Citizens Center, 208 West Main Street

Senior Meals

Lifetime Resources will be providing congregate meals at the Madison Senior Center on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meals are free for anyone over age 60 with a suggestion donation of $6. Meals are $6 for anyone under age 60.

Game Days

The Madison Senior Citizens Center hosts weekly card days and Bingo at the Senior Citizens Center in downtown Madison. The schedule includes Euchre on Mondays and Thursdays from 12 p.m. until 10 games are completed and Bingo on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. The games are free and open to senior citizens.

Hanover Senior Citizens Center Exercising

The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is offering free exercising at the Hanover Park Community Center on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Lunch

The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is serving lunch at noon on Fridays at the Hanover Park Community Center. Cost is $5 and RSVP is required by calling 812-498-2894.

Retirement Planning: Common Investor Mistakes

Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad
Retirement Planning/
Wealth Management

There is no magic bullet when it comes to retiring successfully.

Hard work, meticulous planning, and years of dedicated wealth-building are the main ingredients needed to facilitate a prosperous, enjoyable retirement.

There is no magic bullet when it comes to retiring successfully. Hard work, meticulous planning, and years of dedicated wealth-building are the main ingredients needed to facilitate a prosperous, enjoyable retirement.

Here are just a few of the things people do that can create lots of frustration, hardships, and headaches later in life:

1. Waiting too long to start saving: Survey after survey confirms the fact that most people regret waiting too long to start planning retirement. The majority of folks wait until they are in their late 40's or 50's to start thinking about retirement planning.

2. Borrowing from a 401(k) plan. Even if you are several years away from retiring from your job, borrowing from your company's 401(k) is probably not a good idea. Tapping into your 401k often causes people to suspend or reduce new contributions as they struggle to repay the loan.

3. Believing you can *"work 'til you die."* Starting too late to plan your retirement could be the product of another sketchy belief: the idea that you'll be able to work long past retirement and bring in all the money you need to survive. Over 50% of Americans polled by financial services companies are certain that they will continue to be employed long past 65, maybe even when they are 80. While this is certainly possible, there is growing evidence that older workers are fast becoming the exception, not the rule. For one thing, age discrimination is far from being an issue from the past. In 2018, AARP did a comprehensive study showing that over 61% of older Americans have experienced age discrimination.

4. Taking on excessive risk in a bid to *"catch up."* When people do eventually realize they've waited too long to start retirement planning, they will sometimes throw caution to the wind and start chasing after iffy opportunities promising fantastic returns.

5. Forgetting to plan for long-term care needs. Few people are willing to acknowledge that they or a spouse or other loved one will likely wind up needing a skilled nursing facility some day. It's hard to imagine oneself in that situation, but the stark fact is that about half of all Americans will spend some time in a nursing home. Because Medicaid does not cover these costs, even well-planned individuals can find themselves drained of cash as they struggle to pay for long term care, which has become increasingly more expensive.

6. Cashing out your retirement plan to fund your kids' college education. You love your kids, and you want them to be as successful as possible. So, it's tempting to want to borrow out of your retirement to fund their education. Don't do it! There are almost always alternatives to parents liquidating their 401(k)'s or other retirement plans.

7. Carrying debt, including mortgages, into retirement. Retirement doesn't mean an end to your financial obligations. On the contrary, you may find things such as utility costs, medical expenses, taxes, home maintenance, etc. actually increase as you (and your home) get older. Unless you are in the minority of Americans who retire wealthy, you are going to need every penny you have to maintain your quality of life.

These are just a few of things that current retirees say they wish they known before they decided to retire. Avoiding even one of these mistakes could mean the difference between a retirement filled with regret and one that is peaceful, prosperous and fulfilling.

Stephen Dybwad, a long time Hoosier resident, is a member of *Syndicated Columnists*, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

Kasper Insurance 220 Clifty Drive Madison, IN 47250 Telephone 812-273-1187. Stephen Dybwad (retirevillage.com)

Steinhardt: More plans for housing coming soon

BY BOB DEMAREE

With the 192-unit Residences at Sunrise Crossing moving forward, there was indication at Tuesday's Redevelopment Meeting of plans coming for even more housing development in Madison.

"We're working on housing strategy," said Tony Steinhardt III, the city's economic development director. "We have a project for market-rate as well as affordable single family patio homes that we're working through, and hopefully we'll be able to present something to you more formal in the next couple of months."

Steinhardt noted that with approvals by the city's Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals at those meetings Monday, Winterwood Development is now finalizing designs on Residences at Sunrise Crossing and plans to close on the sale of the property by the end of May.

He said Shoppes at Sunrise Crossing continues to do well. "In January, which is supposed to be a slow shopping month, there were 50,000 visits," according to Placer.ai data. Steinhardt said he talked to two of the store managers in the shopping center while shopping there, and both said "they both were ahead of their January plan by double digits."

Steinhardt also said the new Culver's restaurant that opened about two months ago "is ahead of their plan as well" and he currently is working with two national restaurant chains to also bring them to Madison.

Meanwhile, work on the parking lot for the new DG Market has begun downtown. Architectural drawings are being finalized for the grocery at 120 East Second Street that's been vacant since Ruler Foods grocery closed March 31, 2018 and DG Market is still expected to open by this summer. "It won't take long on construction," he said, "once they get started, it will go fast."

Steinhardt said Crystal Beach Aquatic Park construction continues to move forward towards opening in May. He said the pool deck is in place. "You can walk across the pool deck and walk down the grand stairs into the pool. We are on schedule, if not a little bit ahead of schedule" with the slide slated to arrive this week for that to be installed.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Redevelopment Commission approved $50,000 in support of Madison Consolidated Schools providing School Resource Officers at every building in the school corporation. Steinhardt said the funds will be used for training, vehicles and equipment.

Jay Roney, director of facilities for Madison Consolidated Schools, said, "We're pretty proud we have a SRO in every school now. I think we're one of a few in the state that does, and we're pretty proud of that."

Meanwhile, work on the parking lot for the new DG Market has begun downtown. Architectural drawings are being finalized for the grocery at 120 East Second Street that's been vacant since Ruler Foods grocery closed March 31, 2018 and DG Market is still expected to open by this summer.

ROYER

FROM **PAGE A1**

The DunKings Munchkins Skewers are three assorted Munchkins doughnut hole treats placed on a skewer. The treat can be added to any beverage or simply enjoyed on the go said the company.

"We are proud to work with Dunkin' on a regular basis by supplying various packaging solutions," said Seaver. "It was exciting to catch a glimpse of this skewer in a popular Super Bowl commercial — and we certainly look forward to seeing how the item does in the marketplace."

Seaver said Dunkin Donuts first reached out to Royer Corporation, which also produces their coffee stirs, about a year ago concerning the skewers. "They know what we're good at. When they have something that fits that bill, they will reach, and pick our brains," he said.

Seaver noted the skewers had to be designed sturdy enough to hold up to the weight of the donuts. "It needed to be a little sharp (to put the doughnut holes on them) but not too sharp so that it hurt somebody."

There are future plans for a Dunkin' Donuts in Madison with approval for construction at 407 Clifty Drive last summer by the city's Plan Commission. On Thursday, Nicole Schell, the city's director of planning, said a building permit for construction was filed in December but she currently does not have a timeline for construction.

Handout

DALLAS MOORE

MOORE

FROM **PAGE A1**

Dallas Moore is a Cincinnati boy, with strong roots in the gospel and bluegrass traditions of Kentucky. "My mom moved up with her parents in 1941. And then dad came up in the late 40s to visit relatives and he met mom for the first time, and they were married soon after. I grew up my whole life in the Norwood area of Cincy.

"Mom was very involved with music while I was growing up. She was part of the Midwestern Hayride radio show on WLW in Cincinnati, and she was a mountain dulcimer player contemporary with Jean Ritchie and other greats. She played until she was 81 years old with her band called Sunset Dawn.

"These days I spend a lot of time in Texas. It's what you would call my 'natural second home' down around the San Antonio area. Most of my band members are from that region, and we've built up quite a fan base over the years in the Lone Star state. My wife and I are actually in the process of purchasing a second home in Texas, so we can split time between there and Cincinnati."

Dallas actually has quite a few ties to Madison.

"Oh yes, I've played in Madison a lot over the years, most recently for Miss Brenda up at the Moose Lodge. In fact, I'm a member of the Madison Moose! So it will be good to come back to town and see old friends."

THIS WEEK IN MUSIC

Friday, Feb. 16

- **1st Street Saloon:** Gary Brown
- **Rivertown Grill:** Smokin Jokers
- **The Drake:** Fred Elam
- **The Central:** Andrew Hibbard & Anthony Ray Wright

Saturday, Feb. 17

- **The Central:** Zach Hackney Bnd
- **VFW:** Damn Strange Band
- **Thomas Family Winery:** Louden Mundane
- **1st Street Saloon:** DJ Nate
- **Rivertown Grill:** Ragtop Deluxe

Sunday, Feb. 18

- **Rivertown Grill:** Sandy & Jill

HOT TIP OF THE WEEK

All the music on this weekend's calendar is absolutely free, with no cover charge. It's something that I believe not everyone appreciates enough. Most other towns and venues you will run into a door charge or cover charge to get in. But in Madison the bar and venue owners just absorb the cost of the bands so that you, the happy music lover roaming the downtown streets, can just pop in and out of all the hot spots, checking the scene until you find one you really like.

One exception is Red Bicycle Hall. Most of the shows are either original music performed by touring professionals, or high-quality tribute style music devoted to one band or artist, again performed at a very high level. To see a Red Bike show, you'll need a ticket, and in a lot of cases, you'll need to buy a ticket before they sell out. Next weekend is a case in point. The outlaw country legend Dallas Moore is playing Red Bike on Friday night, and an award winning Johnny Cash tribute artist is playing Saturday night. Now is the time to get your tickets if you want to see this great music. Visit MadTixEvents.com.

Charlie Rohlfing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd, anywhere live local music is happening.

APPROVAL

FROM **PAGE A1**

"We really don't have any control what a guy with bulldozer does," said Caldwell. "He's out there driving around. We don't have any control over what's going to be left. We really don't have any control over what gets planted because it may or may not be in the budget. Certainly in my lifetime it may not grow back to where I won't see the apartments any more."

He said the fencing may stop people from walking through other yards "but it won't meet the objective of screening on the ground level" because from where he lives, it won't be enough to do that because he'll be able to see over the fence.

Caldwell asked for protection of the remaining trees facing his backyard by leaving a 30-foot green space to preserve trees in that area. "We're not saying don't build the building. We're not arguing about any of that. What I'm really saying is I won't live long enough to see those trees growing back over that three-story building in the back of my Miles Ridge house."

Fritz said construction drawings for the housing development have not yet been finished to know "how far back we're going to have to go" to clear for first five buildings. "We're not going to do any more than we have to do. From a cost perspective there's no reason for us to do anything we don't have to do. It doesn't make sense."

Having said that, he doesn't yet have the full construction document, so "I don't know what the limit of clearing is. I would not anticipate we would have to clear the entire site in every direction in the first phase."

He noted it is "a very constrained site" and besides the buildings, there is also parking. "We've really maximized the parking in the building location and we made the setback mathematically as large as it could to fit everything we need, so I think it would be very difficult to extend that."

Celestra Dewey, who resides on Franks Drive, noted her concern is that it's a rent-controlled building. "That worries me. I don't understand why market values can't dictate how much the apartments will be." She's concerned about how the apartments will affect her home's value.

Tony Steinhardt III, the city's economic development director, said the units are not rent-controlled. "The rents are set at close to market rates, and we've stated that since this project has begun." He said the units will be 80% of the adjusted median income in the community which means to qualify for the units renters must make a $40,000 to $45,000 salary.

Ann Powell, who resides on Sunset Court, said, "This specifically doesn't have an issue with us at this time because it's already happened with us. We formerly had a wonderful woods," adding it's a reason she and her husband purchased their house there. "We had deer. The deer had their babies behind our house in the woods. We fed them. We had a deer feeder." She said they asked to leave the tree with deer feeder, and it was done, and there are three trees and a grouping of evergreens to block their view, but "our view is now the back of Kohl's." She said the evergreens will grow but won't grow tall enough to block that view in her lifetime. "The reason I'm here is what's coming for these people has already come for us."

Jennifer Scholey said she was speaking on behalf of her mother who lives on Franks Drive and has resided in Madison for 88 years, living many years in her current location. "We will no longer have the home that we grew up in," Scholey said. "We are seeing our view will be obstructed. We will no longer have wildlife in our area. We have what I estimate 1,000 new neighbors within a very, very short amount of time. I grew up there, I played there. It's a beautiful area. I love what you're doing with the water feature" to control stormwater. "However, i think we need to think and look at the property that is there now, and what is going to be in a year. It's going to look very different. I can speak for the neighbors, my mom's neighbors, we're all very upset about this. We would love to have you come and see (what we see) every day, then take the map and translate that into what we will be living" once the woods are gone.

Steinhardt noted, "This is the first housing development in 30 years" in Madison. "This is a very large development on our hilltop. It's a much needed development in our community." He said Madison is currently 3,000 units short in housing "so this is very important piece for economic development and attraction of talent to provide those workers for a place to live."

As far the setbacks on the Winterwood development, he said, "We've worked really hard to mitigate as much as we can. Unfortunately, this was several acres of undeveloped land in Madison that ultimately now is changing use, and we've tried to mitigate that. Many of the drainage issues will be addressed." He noted there have been efforts to mitigate as many issues as possible. "It's an important project for the community."

Josh Wilber, chair of the Plan Commission, said, "What we have to consider is the setback, and it's purely the setback from the property line" and following the ordinance. "What gets put in between there, I hope continues to get talked about in that 30-foot space."

The Plan Commission approved a parking plan for 282 parking stalls and 18 ADA spaces over the two phases of construction. Because the requirement is for 384 total parking stalls and eight ADA parking spaces, approval was also needed for a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals, which was granted in the meeting that followed the Plan Commission meeting.

Although the approval was for 102 fewer total spaces than required, the plan has 10 more ADA parking stalls than required. Steven Kersey, an architect for the project, said, "We have pledged to the Indiana Housing Finance Agency to provide more accessible units than the code requires so that is why we are having more accessible apartments and more accessible parking in phase one. We may be required to do a similar situation in phase two but we haven't made that application yet. What you see on the plan is what we request for phase one and phase two but we may come back to you with a variance later on if our accessible apartment count creeps up higher."

He set the intention is to have at least one parking space for every accessible apartment and two accessible spaces for the apartment office.

The address for the Residences at Sunrise Crossing is 2536 Michigan Road on the applications to the Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Schell said the property likely will eventually receive a new address from 911 with the development being located behind the Shoppes at Sunrise Crossing, and more alongside Clifty Drive.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

- Approved an application from James and Suzanne Capps for combining the lot at 1132 West Second Street with 1128 West Second Street, and consolidating them together. There is a house at 1132 West Second Street but 1128 West Second Street is an empty lot. The Capps live in Utica, Kentucky, and plan to make the residence in Madison their second home.
- Approved two applications for Choices for Women Resource Center at 118 Holt Drive— one that approved setbacks and the other that approved an accessible parking plan with 18 parking stalls and two ADA parking stalls. The property currently is an empty lot. Choices for Women Executive Director Lisa Perry said there is "hope for an office" that will be constructed there. "We pay approximately $1,500 rent in our current location" at Village Square Shopping Center on Clifty Drive, "and this gives us an opportunity to own our space and actually increase our budget."
- Announced that Joe Patterson, associate planner, has resigned that position and his last day is March 11 after the next Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Schell said the city is currently in the process of hiring a replacement for Patterson, who is moving to Bloomington. "We wish you a lot of luck in your future career endeavors," Wilber told Patterson as the 45-minute meeting ended.

HANOVER ROUNDUP

David Campbell

Hanover's Cam Freeman (11) goes to the basket against Anderson's Jacksen Greco (31) during the Panthers' loss at home on Tuesday.

Anderson dominates 2nd half to beat Hanover men

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Anderson shot 54% from the floor and scored 50 points in the second half to beat Hanover 94-75 in men's basketball at Collier Arena on Tuesday.

Anderson led 44-39 at halftime then dominated the final 20 minutes to claim the win and improve to 20-4 overall and 15-2 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Ty Houston scored 20 points to lead Hanover and Avery Saunders had 10 points and five rebounds off the bench. A total of 13 players scored for Hanover in the game, including Madison's Luke Miller, who had three points and a rebound.

Hanover, now 15-9 overall and 11-6 in the HCAC, travels to Mount St. Joseph on Friday in its final regular-season game. The Panthers, who have clinched a berth in the HCAC Tournament, will be either the third, fourth or fifth seed.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BEATS ANDERSON

Hanover outscored Anderson by nine points in the second half to beat Anderson in women's basketball Tuesday on the road.

Hanover went into the halftime break down by two points but outscored the Ravens 19-13 in the third quarter to take the lead and then held on in the fourth for the win.

Kady Clancy scored 24 points to lead Hanover and Taylor Heath had 19 points and eight assists. Kylah Lawson had a double-double of 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Hanover, now 17-7 overall and 15-2 HCAC, hosts Mount St. Joseph on Friday in its regular-season finale. The winner of the game will be the No. 2 seed in the HCAC Tournament beginning on Sunday.

CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 16

BASKETBALL

Hanover women host Mount St. Joseph, 7 p.m.
Hanover men at Mount St. Joseph, 7:30 p.m.
Madison boys at Columbus East, 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern boys at Austin, 7:30 p.m.
Switzerland Co. boys at Jac-Cen-Del, 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. girls host North Oldham, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Hanover, HCAC Championships at Rose-Hulman, 6 p.m.

WRESTLING

Switzerland Co., IHSAA State Finals at Evansville, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 17

BASKETBALL

Madison boys at Trinity Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
Shawe boys hosts Carroll Co., 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern boys at Scottsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Switzerland Co. boys host New Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. boys at Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. girls host Lloyd, 7:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

Hanover women host Bethel, 1 p.m.
Hanover men host Wilmington, 3:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Hanover, HCAC Championships at Rose-Hulman, 11 a.m.
Madison, Shawe, Southwestern, Switzerland Co. boys, IHSAA Sectional at Floyd Central, 1 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Hanover at Mount St. Joseph, 11 a.m.

WRESTLING

Switzerland Co., IHSAA State Finals at Evansville, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 18

BASKETBALL

Hanover men, HCAC Tournament, TBA
Hanover men, HCAC Tournament, TBA

TENNIS

Hanover men and women vs. Wittenberg at Dayton, Ohio, 2:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 19

BASKETBALL

Trimble Co. boys host Kentucky Country Day, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co. boys at Whitefield Academy, 7:30 p.m.
Shawe boys at Milan, 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern boys host Charlestown, 7:30 p.m.
Switzerland Co. boys at Gallatin Co., 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. girls host Woodford Co., 7:30 p.m.

HS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Switzerland beats Rising Sun to sweep Ruler of the River series

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Switzerland County boys basketball finished off a four-game sweep of Rising Sun with a 62-55 road win on Tuesday.

The win allowed Switzerland to run away with the annual "Ruler of the River" trophy between the two schools. The four games pit Switzerland and Rising Sun against each other — two boys basketball games and two girls basketball games.

Cam Craig scored 21 points to lead Switzerland while Kadyn Riley had 18 points and Jacob Williams scored nine points.

Switzerland, now 11-7 overall, 3-2 in the Ohio River Valley Conference, travels to Jac-Cen-Del on Friday and hosts New Washington on Saturday. The Pacers head to Gallatin County next Tuesday in Warsaw, Kentucky.

CARROLL GIRLS SPLIT TWO

Carroll County girls basketball split a pair of games earlier this week.

On Monday, Carroll suffered an 88-43 loss at Walton-Verona. Madie Hicks scored 18 points to lead the Panthers, Kaitlyn Hensley had 11 and Elle Spencer scored eight.

On Tuesday, Carroll defeated Newport 62-43 at home. Cloie McGuire had 20 points for the Panthers, Hensley scored 16 and Hicks had 14.

Carroll, now 9-17 overall and 3-4 in the North Central Kentucky Conference, traveled to Ludlow on Thursday and heads to South Oldham on Monday.

TRIMBLE GIRLS FALL TO BELLEVUE

Trimble County suffered a 60-45 loss at Bellevue in girls basketball on Tuesday.

Addison Edmondson had 14 points to lead the Raiders and Kimberly Rodriguez scored 10. Jolie Wilcoxson and Kendra Mahoney scored six points each.

Trimble, now 13-11 on the season, hosts North Oldham on Friday and hosts Lloyd Memorial on Saturday. The Raiders then host Woodford County next Tuesday.

RAIDERS LOSE TO BEECHWOOD

Trimble County boys basketball dropped an 81-52 game at home to Beechwood on Monday.

Brayden Wilson led the Raiders with 19 points and Ethan Horn scored 12. Ethan Keller added nine points.

Trimble, now 5-21 on the season, traveled to Shawe on Thursday and heads to Valley on Saturday. The Raiders host Kentucky Country Day next Monday.

CARROLL FALLS TO HOLMES

Carroll County's boys suffered a 73-67 loss at Covington Holmes on Tuesday.

Carroll, now 9-15 on the season, travels to Shawe on Saturday and heads to Whitefield Academy next Tuesday.

Pacers, Indy use 3-year delay to add new wrinkles to 1st NBA All-Star weekend

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — The signs are all around downtown Indianapolis now: NBA All-Star weekend finally has arrived.

Yes, nearly seven years after Larry Bird drove a blue-and-gold IndyCar down New York's Fifth Avenue to hand-deliver the city's bid, and three years after Indianapolis' game was moved to Atlanta amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Circle City is about to host another big basketball bash.

And it could be even better than organizers initially thought.

"We could have done it in 2021 like Atlanta with 1,500 people, but we wanted to do it in Indy style," Indiana Pacers COO and president Rick Fuson said Tuesday. "We said, 'Hey, we're going to do this thing bigger and better.' "

Much has changed since Indianapolis last hosted the league's midseason classic in 1985, when a then-record crowd of 43,146 braved a driving snowstorm to watch Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson and Ralph Sampson lead the West past an East squad featuring Bird, Michael Jordan and Isiah Thomas at the Hoosier Dome.

Back then, the city was nicknamed Indiana-no-place.

Today, Indy has grown into a staging ground for some of the world's biggest events — the Super Bowl, the NBA Finals, men's and women's Final Fours, the CFP title game, Olympics trials and the Indianapolis 500 — largely because of its reputation for creating hospitable, fan-centric environments in a town where everyone embraces the parties.

Out-of-towners will find more of the same this weekend.

Images promoting the game and its events can be found seemingly everywhere from city skywalks to crowd barricades.

Posters of the All-Star players cover Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts and host to All-Star Saturday Night, and Gainbridge Fieldhouse, home of the Pacers and WNBA's Indiana Fever and site of Sunday's All-Star Game. There's even a larger-than-life graphic of Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton on the towering 33-story glass facade at the JW Marriott hotel.

The recently opened Bicentennial Plaza features local art and organizers will have three IndyCars on the city's streets, and even Bird could be back in his home state.

But in 2021, amid mask and social distancing mandates, this kind of show might not have been possible. So organizers opted for the delay, using the extra time to complete the fieldhouse's renovation project, adding the plaza and expanding the already grand plan.

They added a high school basketball Knockout Competition that features all of the state's 92 counties and added three new legacy projects, increasing the number from 21 to 24. Heck, the Pacers even acquired Haliburton, a first-time All-Star starter, in February 2022.

"When we had to shift the All-Star Game off of 2021, we were trying to figure out when it would work out and we landed on 2024," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in October. "But that three years, I think, has really turned out to benefit us."

Now, the Pacers appear ready to shine under the spotlight of a second All-Star weekend.

For Herb Simon, the longest-tenured owner in NBA history at 41 years, and his family, it's everything they imagined it could be — and so much more.

"We're going to welcome the world and showcase our city, showcase everything that we're doing, our organization, our city," said Steve Simon, Herb's oldest son and future team owner. "We're just so thrilled to welcome the world, to do this in partnership with the greatest league in the world, the NBA, and can't wait to host you guys."

No. 23 Indiana State ranked for first time since 1979

UConn remains No. 1

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Indiana State's balanced scoring, free-flowing offense and its goggle-wearing big man have the program off to one of its best starts in years.

Now the Sycamores have something that hasn't happened since Larry Bird played in Terre Haute: a spot in the AP Top 25.

Riding a nine-game winning streak, Indiana State debuted at No. 23 in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll Monday, the Sycamores' first ranking since reaching No. 1 in 1978-79.

"It's a group that the community can really wrap their arms around and I think they have. That's just great to see," Indiana State coach Josh Schertz told reporters recently. "I know Terre Haute. They love basketball. I know there's a great history and tradition, from Larry Bird to John Wooden to Clarence Walker."

Connecticut and Purdue kept the top two spots in the AP Top 25. The defending national champion Huskies received 45 first-place votes from a 61-person media panel and the Boilermakers had 16.

Schertz took over the Indiana State program during the pandemic, inheriting a depleted roster with no chance to get players to visit campus. Schertz cobbled together a team that won 11 games his first season and the Sycamores improved to 23-13 last season.

Indiana State (22-3) has been on a roll in Schertz's third season, winning all 11 home games while taking a two-game lead over Drake in the Missouri Valley Conference at 11-1.

The Sycamores have five players scoring in double figures, led by dynamic 5-foot-10 guard Isaiah Swope's 17.7 points per game. Big man Robbie Avila has become a fan favorite with his goggles, averaging 16.4 points and 7.4 rebounds.

Indiana State is fifth nationally in scoring at 85.6 points per game, ninth in 3-point percentage (39%) and is No. 1 in adjusted field goal percentage, according to KenPom. The combination has the Sycamores eyeing their first NCAA Tournament berth since 2011.

"Our goal is we want to get to the NCAA Tournament and advance," Schertz said. "You never want to put ceilings on yourself. You want to get to the tournament and win games and go as far as you can. You saw what happened last year with Florida Atlantic and San Diego State playing in the Final Four — there's nothing outside of your reach."

AT THE TOP

Losses by No. 6 Kansas and No. 7 North Carolina led to a shakeup in the top 10 behind UConn and Purdue.

Houston moved up two spots to No. 5, Marquette rose three places to No. 4 and No. 8 Arizona climbed three following a sweep of the Pac-12's mountain schools. Tennessee, Duke and Iowa State rounded out the top 10. The Cyclones returned to the top 10 for the first time since the 2021-22 season.

RISING AND FALLING

Iowa State and No. 11 South Carolina had the biggest jumps in this week's poll, each rising four spots.

No. 20 Wisconsin had the biggest drop, falling nine places after losing four straight games.

No. 22 Kentucky dropped five places after losing three straight games at Rupp Arena for the first time it opened in 1976. The Wildcats hadn't lost three in a row at home since the 1966-67 season, when they played at Memorial Coliseum.

IN AND OUT

No. 18 Saint Mary's moved back into the AP Top 25 for the first time since the preseason poll after wins over Pacific and Portland. No. 19 Virginia returned to the poll for the first time since mid-December thanks to an eight-game winning streak.

No. 25 Oklahoma moved back into the poll after dropping out last week following wins over No. 18 BYU and rival Oklahoma State.

Utah State dropped out from No. 22 after losing at home to Nevada and beating Boise State. Texas Tech fell from No. 23 to unranked following a loss to No. 12 Baylor and a win over UCF.

San Diego State also dropped out from No. 24 after an overtime loss to Nevada.

CONFERENCE WATCH

The Big 12 leads the country with six ranked teams, followed by the SEC with five. The Atlantic Coast, Big Ten and Big East conferences were next with three. The Pac-12, Atlantic 10, West Coast, Missouri Valley and American Athletic conferences each had one.

BC turns on Louisville in 2nd half for win

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. — Claudell Harris Jr. scored 20 points and Devin McGlockton scored 19 points and Boston College used a second-half rally to beat Louisville 89-77 on Tuesday night.

Quinten Post scored 17 points, Mason Madsen 11 and Jaeden Zackery and reserve Donald Hand Jr. each scored 10 for the Eagles (14-10, 5-8 ACC). Harris finished 8-for-12 shooting, McGlockton 8 for 11 and Post 7 for 11. The Eagles overall were 34 for 60 (56.7%) including 11 for 23 from 3-point range.

Brandon Huntley-Hatfield and Tre White each scored 21 points, Mike James 14 and Ty-Laur Johnson 12 for Louisville (8-17, 3-11).

Louisville led 47-39 at halftime before Boston College unloaded and outscored the Cardinals 29-10 in the first 10 minutes of the second half. Boston College went on to a 50-point second half shooting 18 for 30 (60%) including 7 for 11 (63.6%) from 3-point range.

The Cardinals travel to face Pittsburgh on Saturday (**TV:** Live on ACC Network at 6:30 p.m.)

Onyenso posts 10 blocks as No. 22 UK beats Mississippi to end home skid

BY GARY B. GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Ugonna Onyenso tied a Rupp Arena record with 10 blocks, Antonio Reeves scored 15 points and No. 22 Kentucky beat Mississippi 75-63 on Tuesday night to end a three-game home losing streak.

Playing at full strength for the first time this season — at least temporarily — thanks to forward Tre Mitchell's return from a back injury, the Wildcats (17-7, 7-4 Southeastern Conference) shot 52% to snap their longest skid at Rupp, which opened in 1976. Kentucky's last three-game home skid came in the 1966-67 season.

Mitchell had five points and six rebounds in 21 minutes before leaving in the second half with a shoulder injury. Reed Sheppard added 13 points for the Wildcats and Justin Edwards had 12.

Kentucky's point total was 14 below its average, but coach John Calipari was happy with his team's balance. He used nine players; all of them scored and each played at least 13 minutes.

"I went to a shorter rotation, and I love how we started the game," he said. "We were the aggressor. We had to change a little bit of what we were doing, how we were guarding people. And I keep saying we got shot blockers. Don't give them a jumper, make them they beat you on the bounce because we got people back in there."

Matthew Murrell and Jaemyn Brakefield each scored 16 points for the Rebels (18-6, 5-6), who shot 38% and have lost five of eight.

Onyenso established his presence with three blocks in four minutes. The 7-foot sophomore finished with the most blocks at Rupp by a Kentucky player and tied the mark set by Navy's David Robinson on Jan. 25, 1987. Three players shared the Wildcats' arena record of nine, most recently Willie Cauley-Stein against Boise State in December 2013.

"It's amazing," said Onyenso, who has blocked 48 shots in 15 games. "The part that I take blocking shots, I'm happy that I did that. Hopefully, I will break it again."

Onyenso made three dunks and two free throws in 24 minutes. Reeves made 6 of 12 shots and had a team-high seven rebounds.

The Wildcats trailed by six points early but were thoroughly in control by halftime with a 43-29 lead. Ole Miss closed within six early in the second half before Rob Dillingham hit a 3-pointer and Onyenso added a dunk for a 52-41 lead that eventually grew to 17.

"One player had a special game, just didn't give us enough offensive possessions and we didn't shoot it great tonight," Ole Miss coach Chris Beard said. "But if our turnovers are lower and we don't get our shot blocked quite as many times, we get enough shots even on a bad shooting night. We'll be able to hang a little more in the game."

BIG PICTURE

Ole Miss: The Rebels went cold after a solid start, missing nine of 10 shots before the break. They shot better early in the second half but never fully recovered.

Kentucky: The Wildcats used their ninth starting lineup this season with Mitchell back. They weren't exactly sharp, committing 15 turnovers that led to 21 points for Ole Miss, but they outrebounded the Rebels 37-34.

UP NEXT

Kentucky visits No. 13 Auburn on Saturday night (**TV:** Live on ESPN at 6 p.m.).

Fashionable fan apparel is in the spotlight; there's still an untapped market for the NFL

BY BROOKE SCHULTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS/REPORT FOR AMERICA

It started as a fun project. A white bodysuit, emblazoned with Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Jake Browning's number and initials.

Taylor Damron had made it for her cousin, Browning's girlfriend Stephanie Niles, to wear to the Jan. 7 game against the Cleveland Browns. Then, the outfit went viral.

"The next day, I woke up, and the world had kind of fallen in my lap," Damron, 29, says.

Damron's design rocketing to internet fame is just one story of how women's fan apparel has found itself in the spotlight. Just a few days later, Taylor Swift would don a red puffer jacket with boyfriend and Kansas City Chiefs' tight end Travis Kelce's number for his game against the Miami Dolphins. Within a month, that jacket's designer, Kristin Juszczyk, would score a NFL licensing deal.

These meteoric success stories have illustrated the potency of a market for women's sports apparel that merges fashion and fan culture. They have also highlighted how hard it is for smaller, independent creators to break into the business — especially Black designers, who popularized and innovated sportswear-as-womenswear two decades ago.

Before Swift catapulted Juszczyk's clothes to a new level of attention, the 29-year-old designer built a following online by repurposing jerseys into more high-fashion pieces — corsets, suits, skirts — for herself as she attended San Francisco 49ers games to support her husband, fullback Kyle Juszczyk. Her NFL chic couture has spread to other players' partners and supporters across the league, including Simone Biles, Taylor Lautner and Brittany Mahomes.

Before Juszczyk sent Swift and Mahomes jackets for the Jan. 13 game, she had about 100,000 followers, according to Social Blade. Within a month, she had more than 1 million.

With her official license in hand, Juszczyk designed puffer vests commemorating Super Bowl LVIII, sported by celebrities. One such vest sold for $75,000, with proceeds going to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Juszczyk herself wore a jacket stitched from jerseys, an ode to her husband's football career, for Sunday's big game.

While players' wives and girlfriends have long represented their partners with custom designs, adopting team colors, logos and numbers, the interplay of fashion and gameday apparel was energized in the '90s and early aughts, when Black artists were "pushing the needle of what was cool and trendy," says Tayler Adigun, a culture and style writer.

"A lot of up-and-coming entertainers in the Black sphere maybe had difficulty getting larger names or fashion houses to want to outfit them or costume them for events and award shows and performances, so they kind of had to be a little bit more innovative in their approach," Adigun says. "It's something that was definitely born out of necessity."

It led to a fusion of sportswear, fan merchandise and cutting-edge design, she says. And, of course, iconic looks: Mya's blue North Carolina jersey dress was one. Then there was Mariah Carey in a floor-length Washington Wizards dress. Carey's dress prompted a surge of interest and the NBA increased the designs they had in their NBA4her collection, according to a 2003 Baltimore Sun article.

When Larena Hoeber began doing research on women and sports, she didn't set out to study apparel. But women kept bringing up how difficult it was to find something they actually wanted to wear to rep their teams. A decade ago, licensed women's merchandise was often made with three key principles: "pink it, bling it, shrink it," Hoeber says.

Kentucky hires former Boise State assistant Hamdan as offensive coordinator

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky has hired former Boise State assistant Bush Hamdan as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach following Liam Coen's departure to the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Hamdan, 38, is a 15-year coaching veteran who previously worked in the Southeastern Conference at Missouri and Florida. He also spent the 2017 season in the NFL with the Atlanta Falcons. Hamdan spent last season at his alma mater and has also coached at Washington, Maryland, Colorado, Davidson and Arkansas State.

Kentucky coach Mark Stoops said he has followed Hamdan's career and been impressed with his work under Steve Sarkisian and Eli Drinkwitz. He called him a "rising star" in a release Wednesday and said he was excited to bring him to Lexington. He will be introduced on Thursday.

Hamdan in turn said he admired Stoops and how he has built the Wildcats, adding, "It's an exciting time to be at Kentucky and be back in the SEC. I can't wait to get started."

Boise State finished second in the Mountain West Conference in scoring offense (32.1 points per game) and total offense (436.1 yards) last season. The Broncos tied for the regular season title before beating UNLV in the championship game and playing in the L.A. Bowl.

NASCAR star Hamlin plans to be more selfish in his drive for a 4th Daytona 500 victory

BY MARK LONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Don't expect Denny Hamlin to stay in line during the closing laps of the Daytona 500.

He's not settling for second. He's not sacrificing his finish to help a teammate. He's not counting on anyone else, either.

It's exactly how he wants it, maybe how he needs it to return to victory lane in NASCAR's signature event for the fourth time and first since winning back-to-back Daytona 500s in 2019-20.

"I think it's in my best interest in getting back to basics, and that's doing what I feel is best to win the race for myself," said Hamlin, who won the exhibition Clash two weeks ago in Los Angeles. "While having teammates is great and are certainly assets to use in certain situations to win races, I think sometimes it's those who are the most selfish, that make moves for themselves, are those who win the race."

Hamlin, a three-time Daytona 500 winner and one of the best NASCAR drivers in history to not win a Cup Series championship, points to Ricky Stenhouse Jr.'s victory a year ago as proof. Stenhouse was driving for a single-car Chevrolet team, had Ford and Toyota drivers teamed up to chase him down, and still managed to secure a career-defining victory.

"You want to help your teammates as much as you can as you'll need those allies throughout the race and certainly during it," Hamlin said. "But I feel I need to personally go back to the style I had a few years ago, and we'll see what the results say."

Hamlin had no Toyota or Joe Gibbs Racing teammates even remotely close to him when he led the final dozen laps in 2020. He had then-JGR teammate Kyle Busch lurking in his rearview mirror the previous year, but Busch never got close enough to make a move late. Hamlin was out front for 30 of the final 38 laps in 2019.

So Hamlin didn't get any help in his most recent Daytona 500 victories. He didn't need any, either.

"In the end, you have to be selfish to win these races and certainly we realize that through results more than anything else," Hamlin said.

Hamlin, a co-owner with retired NBA superstar Michael Jordan at 23IX Racing since 2021, is trying to become the third driver to win at least four Daytona 500s. NASCAR legend Richard Petty tops the list with seven, three more than Cale Yarborough.

Hamlin is tied with Hall of Famers Bobby Allison, Dale Jarrett and Jeff Gordon.

"Each win puts you in a different category, right?" Hamlin said. "Some of the numbers that Richard put up or Cale, it's hard to duplicate in today's type of racing where there's more cars on the lead lap and more cars in the front pack.

"I think accomplishments like that certainly puts you in an upper echelon of drivers that were legends in this sport, so it would certainly mean a lot."

Hamlin is widely regarded as one of the best, if not the best, superspeedway drivers in the series. He stunned the field to the exhibition Shootout as a rookie in 2006 and has been a contender every race at Daytona since.

8 children among 22 hit by gunfire at Chiefs' Super Bowl parade

1 killed as terrified fans run for cover

BY HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH AND NICK INGRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Eight children were among 22 people hit by gunfire in a shooting at the end of Wednesday's parade to celebrate the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl win, authorities said, as terrified fans ran for cover and yet another high-profile public event was marred by gun violence. One person was killed, identified by her radio station as a DJ.

Kansas City Police Chief Stacey Graves detailed the shooting's toll at a news conference and said three people had been taken into custody. She said she has heard that fans may have been involved in apprehending a suspect but couldn't immediately confirm that.

"I'm angry at what happened today. The people who came to this celebration should expect a safe environment." Graves said. Police did not immediately release any details about the people taken into custody or about a possible motive for the shootings. She said firearms had been recovered, but not what kind of weapons were used.

"There's a lot of work ahead. This is just the beginning stages," she said. "All of that is being actively investigated."

It is the latest sports celebration in the U.S. to be marred by gun violence, following a shooting that injured several people last year in downtown Denver after the Nuggets' NBA championship, and gunfire last year at a parking lot near the Texas Rangers' World Series championship parade.

Social media users posted shocking video of police running through a crowded scene as people hurriedly scrambled for cover and fled. One video showed someone apparently performing chest compressions on a shooting victim as another person, seemingly writhing in pain, lay on the ground nearby. People screamed in the background.

Another video showed two people chase and tackle a person, holding them down until two police officers arrived.

Radio station KKFI said in a Facebook post Wednesday evening that DJ Lisa Lopez, host of "Taste of Tejano," was killed in the shooting.

"This senseless act has taken a beautiful person from her family and this KC Community," KKFI said in a statement.

The shooting outside Union Station happened despite more than 800 police officers who were in the building and around the area, including on top of nearby buildings, said Mayor Quinton Lucas, who attended with his wife and mother and had to run for cover when gunfire broke out.

"I think that's something that all of us who are parents, who are just regular people living each day, have to decide what we wish to do about," Lucas said. "Parades, rallies, schools, movies. It seems like almost nothing is safe."

Kansas City has long struggled with gun violence, and in 2020 it was among nine cities targeted by the U.S. Justice Department in an effort to crack down on violent crime. In 2023 the city matched a record with 182 homicides, most of which involved guns.

Lucas has joined with mayors across the country in calling for new laws to reduce gun violence, including mandating universal background checks.

Lisa Money, a resident of the city, was trying to gather some confetti near the end of the parade when she heard somebody yell, "Down, down, everybody down!"

At first Money thought somebody might be joking until she saw the SWAT team jumping over the fence.

"I can't believe it really happened. Who in their right mind would do something like this? This is supposed to be a day of celebration for everybody in the city and the surrounding area. and then you've got some idiot that wants to come along and do something like this," she said.

Kevin Sanders, 53, of Lenexa, Kansas, said he heard what sounded like firecrackers and then people started running. After that initial flurry, calm returned, and he didn't think much of it. But 10 minutes later, ambulances started showing up.

"It sucks that someone had to ruin the celebration, but we are in a big city," Sanders said.

University Health spokeswoman Nancy Lewis said the hospital was treating eight gunshot victims. Two were in critical condition and six were in stable condition, she said. The hospital also was treating four people for other injuries resulting from the chaos after the shooting, Lewis said.

Lisa Augustine, spokesperson for Children's Mercy Kansas City, said the hospital was treating 12 patients from the rally, including 11 children, some of whom suffered gunshot wounds.

St. Luke's Hospital of Kansas City received one gunshot patient in critical condition and three walk-ins with injuries that were not life-threatening, spokesperson Laurel Gifford said.

"When you have this many casualties, it's going to get spread out among a lot of hospitals so that you don't overwhelm any single ER," she said.

Chiefs trainer Rick Burkholder said that he was with coach Andy Reid and other coaches and staff members at the time of the shooting, and that the team was on buses and returning to Arrowhead Stadium.

"We are truly saddened by the senseless act of violence that occurred outside of Union Station at the conclusion of today's parade and rally," the team said in a statement.

Missouri's Republican Gov. Mike Parson and first lady Teresa Parson were at the parade during the gunfire but were unhurt. "Thanks to the professionalism of our security officers and first responders, Teresa and I and our staff are safe and secure," Parson said in a statement.

President Joe Biden was briefed on the shooting and will continue to receive updates, a White House spokesperson said. White House officials were in touch with state and local leaders, and federal law enforcement was on the scene supporting their local counterparts.

Areas that had been filled with crowds were empty after the shooting, with police and firefighters standing and talking behind an area restricted by yellow tape.

Throngs had lined the route earlier, with fans climbing trees and street poles or standing on rooftops for a better view. Players rolled through the crowd on double-decker buses, as DJs and drummers heralded their arrival. Owner Clark Hunt was on one of the buses, holding the Lombardi Trophy.

The city and the team each chipped in around $1 million for the event commemorating Travis Kelce, Mahomes and the Chiefs becoming the first team since Tom Brady and the New England Patriots two decades ago to defend their title.

After decades without a championship, the city has gained experience with victory parades. Five seasons ago the Chiefs defeated the 49ers for the team's first Super Bowl championship in 50 years. That followed the Kansas City Royals winning the World Series in 2015, the city's first baseball championship in 30 years.

Then last year the Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35 and prophetically vowed they would be back for more.

Bridges, Charlotte newcomers lead Hornets past Pacers 111-102

BY STEVE REED
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Miles Bridges had 20 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Indiana Pacers 111-102 on Monday night to improve to 2-0 since the arrival of five new players via trade.

Newcomers Grant Williams, Seth Curry, Tre Mann and Vasilije Micic added an offensive spark for the Hornets, who finished with 27 assists. Williams led the team with 21 points and Curry scored 18 off the bench. Mann got the start and finished with 11 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Micic added a calming influence on offense and helped spark Charlotte's solid ball movement.

"We're more experienced and we're much deeper, which, to be honest, is a big thing," Hornets coach Steve Clifford said.

The addition of Williams has allowed the Hornets to play five out, which has opened driving lanes for Bridges, Mann and Micic.

The Hornets were plus-14 with Williams on the court, who played 31 minutes.

"Miles made a great drive in the fourth quarter and a lot of that is just because Grant's at the five," Clifford said. "You've got so much more room on the floor. Miles made a great play, but if you have a traditional center in there, he's probably not going to be able to get all the way to the basket."

Myles Turner had 22 points and Aaron Nesmith scored 21 for the Pacers (30-25). Tyrese Haliburton chipped in 13 points and 12 rebounds while playing 34 minutes in the loss — his most action since returning from a hamstring injury.

The Indiana locker room was eerily quiet after the game, the sign of a team that knew it allowed one to get away against one of the league's worst. Charlotte is 12-41.

"At some point as a group, we need to grow up," Haliburton said. "We have to mature as a group and we have to win these games. We have one more game before the All-Star break and we have to approach it the right way."

Pacers coach Rick Carlisle wasn't pleased with his team's approach or the rebounding margin — 46-32 in favor of Charlotte.

"We talked a lot about their trades, how they played two nights ago," Carlisle said in reference to Chicago's 115-106 win over Memphis. "They're clearly a team that's energized, and we needed to match that, and we didn't."

Certainly not in the fourth quarter.

Charlotte held the NBA's highest-scoring team to just 22 points over the final 12 minutes to secure back-to-back wins for only the second time this season.

The Hornets, who have been plagued by injuries this season, have had fresh legs post-trade.

Williams has provided a huge boost off the bench and a physical presence, while Mann and Micic have used their quickness off the dribble to create opportunities for their teammates.

Mann is finally getting a chance to play after spending much of his time on the bench in Oklahoma City watching and learning from more experienced players.

"There is a lot less pressure knowing I can play through mistakes," Mann said.

The Hornets took an 81-80 lead into the fourth behind Curry, who swung the momentum when he knocked down a 3 and scored on a drive through traffic late in the third quarter.

Charlotte kept attacking in the fourth and Brandon Miller's pull-up foul-line jumper gave the Hornets a 103-95 lead with 2:47 remaining. Bridges added a hammer dunk over Turner on Charlotte's next possession, bringing the crowd to its feet.

Williams had four free throws in the final minute to help put the game away.

Charlotte shot 53.7% from the field and its bench outscored the Pacers 44-18.

Silver tells ESPN Las Vegas 'definitely' on NBA expansion list

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRES

INDIANAPOLIS — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told ESPN on Wednesday that Las Vegas is "definitely on our list" of cities under consideration for expansion franchises.

Las Vegas has been mentioned as an NBA destination many times before and the timetable for when the league will add new franchises to its existing group of 30 clubs is unclear. The NBA has another year after this season on its $24 billion, nine-year media rights deal and Silver has long said that serious expansion talks won't happen until the new media deal is finalized.

"We want to figure out what our media relationships are going to look like but then we will turn to expansion," Silver said again Wednesday in the interview with ESPN, one of the league's media partners.

Las Vegas already plays host to the NBA's primary summer league, has a successful WNBA franchise in the two-time defending champion Aces, has been the site of All-Star weekend and was where the semifinals and final in this season's inaugural in-season tournament took place. It has been an expansion target for years, and LeBron James has said many times that he wants to own the team that many believe will inevitably come to Las Vegas.

Seattle has also been often mentioned as an expansion candidate. Silver told NBA.com for a story published earlier this week that Mexico City is "on our radar" but the league bringing a team there is "probably not going to happen in the next wave of expansion."

Nashville, Vancouver and Montreal are among the places that have also been mentioned in recent years as cities that would have interest in an expansion franchise.

Silver is scheduled to hold his annual All-Star weekend news conference with multiple news outlets on Saturday night.

Shooting after Chiefs' Super Bowl parade latest violence to mar sports celebrations

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The shooting after the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory parade Wednesday was just the latest example of violence erupting during a championship celebration.

Here are other shootings that have taken place over the last decade either the night a team won a league championship or during the ensuing parade or rally.

JUNE 2016: CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

Police said a person was shot twice in the leg and received injuries that weren't life-threatening during a parade and rally for the Cavaliers' NBA championship.

JUNE 2019: TORONTO RAPTORS

Four people were shot and wounded at a downtown Toronto rally for the NBA champion Raptors. Police said others suffered minor injuries as they tried to get away from the shooting.

OCTOBER 2020: LOS ANGELES DODGERS

Two people were shot to death in Sylmar, California, the night the Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series. Family members of Juan Carlos Guillen and Marco Antonio Vazquez said the two men were trying to stop people who were smashing car windows with baseball bats.

JULY 2021: MILWAUKEE BUCKS

Two shootings left three people wounded in downtown Milwaukee the night the Bucks won their first NBA title in 50 years. Police said the injuries weren't life-threatening. The shootings were across the Milwaukee River from Fiserv Forum, the Bucks' home arena.

JUNE 2022: DENVER NUGGETS

After the Nuggets' championship parade last year, a shooting took place in downtown Denver that injured two people, though police said they didn't believe the incident was associated with the celebration.

OCTOBER 2022: TEXAS RANGERS

An argument resulted in shots being fired at a parking lot near the Rangers' World Series championship parade, though nobody was injured.

UConn, Iowa, Louisville and Tennessee to participate in Women's Champions Classic

BY DOUG FEINBERG
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — UConn, Iowa, Louisville and Tennessee will take part in the inaugural Women's Champions Classic on Dec. 7.

The doubleheader will be played at Barclays Center and shown in primetime on Fox. The matchups haven't been set yet.

"The Women's Champions Classic is the next step in Fox Sports' longstanding commitment to elevating women's athletics, and we are eager to showcase these student-athletes at the highest level — in primetime on the Fox broadcast network," said Executive Vice President of Fox Sports Jordan Bazant, "Alongside our partners at HS&E, the exceptional participating schools and their conferences, we could not be more excited to bring the Women's Champions Classic to college hoops fans around the nation."

The annual event will feature UConn and include a rotation of other top teams in the country.

"We're very excited to have the Women's Champions Classic on our schedule for the foreseeable future," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "There's never been a higher level of interest in women's basketball. The Champions Classic will give fans exciting, marquee matchups early in the season."

There's been a men's version of the tournament since 2011 that tips off the season and features Duke, Michigan State, Kentucky and Kansas while rotating venues every year. It hasn't been decided where the event will take place after this year's inaugural one.

Ohio State basketball fires Holtmann after several seasons

BY MITCH STACY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State fired seventh-year basketball coach Chris Holtmann on Wednesday with the Buckeyes mired in yet another subpar season.

Associate head coach Jake Diebler will run the program for the rest of the season and a search for a new head coach will commence then, said Ohio State athletics director Gene Smith, who said a coaching change is "obviously something I've been thinking about for a little bit."

"Our responsibility is to the program, so I just felt at this particular time, with six regular season games left and the Big Ten tournament and whatever the post season brings, a spark was needed," said Smith, who was nearly overcome with emotion while answering questions during a press conference. "So yeah, it's about the program in the end, and I have to set aside my personal feelings and just go with what's best."

Ohio State is 14-11, 4-10 in the Big Ten, and has lost nine of the last 11. In 2022-23, the Buckeyes suffered their first losing season in nearly two decades, finishing 16-19 and 5-15 in the Big Ten.

Ohio State's 62-54 setback at Wisconsin on Tuesday marked its 16th straight road loss, tying a school record. The last road win for the Buckeyes came on Jan. 1, 2023.

The 52-year-old Holtmann was seen as a coach on the rise when Ohio State hired him away from Butler in 2017 to replace Thad Matta, who had brought success to Columbus but agreed to step down, partly due to health problems.

Holtmann compiled a 137-86 record in seven years at Ohio State but the last few seasons have been disappointing as he tried to negotiate a new college basketball culture heavy on transfer portal and NIL issues.

The Buckeyes went to the NCAA Tournament in 2021 and 2022 but couldn't make it out of the first weekend either time.

None of Holtmann's Ohio State teams won a regular season title or conference tournament.

Smith is set to retire in July, and he said new athletics director Ross Bjork would direct the search for a new basketball coach.

In 2022, Ohio State gave Holtmann a three-year contract extension that pushed his salary to about $3.5 million per season. He will be owed the $12.8 million remaining on his contract.

Royals plan new ballpark in downtown Kansas City

BY DAVE SKRETTA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Royals intend to build their new downtown ballpark blocks away from T-Mobile Center and the Power & Light District, scrapping two concepts elsewhere in the city for a location that puts the stadium closer to existing entertainment areas.

The Royals revealed plans for the $2 billion-plus ballpark project Tuesday at Kauffman Stadium, two days after the Kansas City Chiefs — whose Arrowhead Stadium shares the Truman Complex with their existing ballpark — won their third Super Bowl in the past five years, and one day before the city celebrates another Lombardi Trophy with a parade downtown.

The route Wednesday travels along Grand Avenue to Union Station, or directly past the location of the new ballpark.

"We're the second-smallest city with both an NFL franchise and Major League Baseball club," Royals owner John Sherman said, "and we want to sustain ourselves as a major league city. We want these franchises to thrive here for another 50 years."

The new ballpark will seat about 34,000 fans, or roughly 3,000 fewer than Kauffman Stadium, and the Royals are hopeful it would be ready for the 2028 season. The final design is still under development, but renderings shown Tuesday paid homage to the K's swooping roof lines and iconic centerfield fountains.

"The ballpark will have a really great feeling of intimacy," Sherman said.

Kansas City started play at Municipal Stadium in 1969, then moved to Kauffman Stadium in 1973 and extensively renovated the current ballpark from 2009-12.

The Royals unveiled two other locations last fall, one on the eastern edge of downtown and the other across the Missouri River in Clay County, Missouri. Both were met with tepid reaction from fans, many of whom still love Kauffman Stadium, and political infighting ensued over the extension of a sales tax in Jackson County, Missouri, to help pay for the ballpark.

The Royals' ownership group plans to invest more than $1 billion in private funding for the project, but some of the money will come from the 3/8-cent tax, which also will provide funding that the Chiefs plan to use to renovate Arrowhead Stadium.

"I know I'm biased here," Sherman said, "but between what the Chiefs can do out here with an expanded tailgate experience, and what we do down there, we will have two of the best pregame and postgame experiences in all of sports."

The Royals and Chiefs pushed to put the sales tax on the April 2 ballot, and Jackson County legislators initially approved the referendum, only to watch Jackson County executive Frank White — a five-time All-Star and member of the Royals' Hall of Fame — veto the measure. Last month, two legislators changed their vote and joined five others in overriding the veto.

That not only put the tax extension on the ballot, it put the onus on the Royals to reveal exactly what voters will be paying for.

The new ballpark would be situated adjacent to Interstate 670, where the Kansas City Star's former printing press building sits largely vacant, and tie together several disparate neighborhoods into a more cohesive downtown environment.

Just to the north, where new parks would cover the interstate and allow for safe pedestrian traffic, sits Power & Light, the home to many existing bars and restaurants. To the south lies the Crossroads Art District, a trendy enclave anchored by the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. And to the east is the historic 18th & Vine neighborhood, home to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, the American Jazz Museum and iconic restaurants such as Arthur Bryant's Barbeque.

"The fact of the matter is, we've always been cognizant of this site. It never went away," said Earl Santee, the founder of the Kansas City-based sports architectural giant Populous. "We looked at other sites over time, and this is my 23rd major league ballpark site, and it's timing that leads you to the end, and this is the right timing for this site."

LEGAL NOTICE

Smyrna Township, Jefferson County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2023

	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan 1, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec 31, 2023
Governmental Activities	1	Cumulative Fire	$762.13	$5,771.09	$4,500.00	$2,033.22
	2	Fire Fighting	$39,899.19	$15,771.70	$15,309.00	$40,361.89
	3	Levy Excess	$92.18	$0.00	$0.00	$92.18
	4	Township	$62,417.43	$9,666.66	$10,661.07	$61,423.02
	5	Township Assistance	$38,452.89	$2,185.13	$719.11	$39,918.91
		Total All Funds	**$141,623.82**	**$33,189.18**	**$31,189.18**	**$143,829.22**

CERTIFICATION
State of Indiana
SS:
Jefferson County

I, Lawrence Mikesell, Trustee of SMYRNA TOWNSHIP, Jefferson County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report contains the information required by Indiana code 36-6-4-13, and is, true and correct; that the amounts with which I am charged in this report are all of the amounts received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the amounts stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or to any other person. A complete abstract that contains the statements required under Indiana Code 36-6-4-13(a)(5) and (a)(6) is available for inspection in the county auditor's office.

I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Lawrence Mikesell
SMYRNA TOWNSHIP Trustee
Telephone: 812-599-7106
Date this report was to be published:

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of SMYRNA TOWNSHIP at its annual meeting, this 6th day of February, 2024.
Kathryn Schneider Smyrna Township Board Chairman

This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 6th day of February, 2024.
Smyrna Township Board:
Melissa May, Chairman
Kathryn Schneider, Secretary
Wilmer Goering, member

hspaxlp

LEGAL

KENT WATER COMPANY, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the company office located at 6162 W. SR 256 on the 22nd of February 2024.

The candidates for election to the Board of Directors are:
Richard Johnson
Jerry Tatman
Matt Oberlies

Member-at-Large – Chris Colson

All members are invited to attend.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2024-2 OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADISON TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ORDINANCE 2023-10, WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 50 RELATING TO GARBAGE COLLECTION

Property owners in the City of Madison, Indiana (the "City") and other interested parties are hereby notified that an amendment to Garbage Collection Ordinance 2023-10, as amended by Ordinance 2024-2 (collectively, the "Rate Ordinance") to create new rates and other changes applicable thereto, was introduced at a meeting of the Common Council of the City (the "Common Council") held on February 6, 2024. Another public meeting of the Common Council will be held at 5:30 p.m., local time, on February 20, 2024, at City Hall, 101 West Main Street, Madison, Indiana 47250, on the matter of such proposed amendment. There will be an opportunity for public comment during this meeting. The Ordinance amendment provides for new Garbage Collection Rates and Charges as set forth below:

Section 50.03 Collection Regulations; Fees

Collection of garbage, recycling, and compost shall increase from $9.85 per month to the following:

Fee Type	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Household Trash	$17.50	$20.50	$21.32	$22.17	$23.06
Recycling/Compost	$ 2.50	$2.50	$2.60	$2.71	$2.81
Total	$20.00	$23.00	$23.92	$24.88	$25.87

Section 50.27: Transfer Station/Compost Yard Charges

Rates for individual residents of the city of Madison or Jefferson County and Industrial and Commercial Refuse Haulers shall be as set forth in the following table for loose, bagged, or other trash and garbage. Rates for non-residents shall be the published resident rate plus 15%. All rates will be posted at the Transfer Station. Compost delivered to the Transfer Station shall be at no cost for city of Madison Residents. Compost for County Residents shall be $39.00 per 1,000 pounds or fraction thereof.

Pounds	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<251	$12.00	$12.48	$12.98	$13.50	$14.04
251 - 500	$19.00	$19.76	$20.55	$21.37	$22.23
501- 1,000	$39.00	$40.56	$42.18	$43.87	$45.62
1,001 – 1,500	$59.00	$61.36	$63.81	$66.37	$69.02
1,501 – 2,000	$79.00	$82.16	$84.45	$88.86	$92.42
Compactors	$79.00	$82.16	$84.45	$88.86	$92.42
Passenger Tire	$11.00	$11.00	$11.00	$11.00	$11.00

At such public meeting and prior to final adoption of the amendment to the Rate Ordinance, all interested parties may appear and be heard. The complete text of the proposed amendment to the Rate Ordinance is on file and available for examination and copying at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer at the City Hall, 101 West Main Street, Madison, Indiana 47250, during regular business hours, and will be available at the public meeting.

Dated: February 8, 2024 CITY OF MADISON, INDIANA, Mayor's Office hspaxlp

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LEGAL

Public Notice

The City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility has issued a draft Industrial permit to SuperATV, a manufacturer of aftermarket parts and accessories for ATVs and UTVs, regulated under Federal Categorical Guidelines for New Source Metal Finishing, 40 CFR 433.17 and the City of Madison Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance, located at 2753 Michigan Road, Madison, Indiana. This permit will be effective fifteen days from the date of this public notice and this public notice initiates the public comment period. A copy of the draft permit is available for review at the City of Madison Water Pollution Control Facility located at 1213 West 1st Street Madison, Indiana. Comments on the SuperATV draft Permit must be received by February 28, 2024.

hspaxlp

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA – 2023-2 CCMG PAVING

Sealed bids will be received by the JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, acting by and through the BOARD OF JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (hereinafter referred to as "the Owner"), at the JEFFERSON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, 3135 Clifty Dr, Madison, Madison, Indiana 47250, until **9:00 AM local time, FEBRUARY 22, 2023,** for the JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA – 2023-2 CCMG PAVING for the JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. Bids received by the time and date specified will be publicly opened and read aloud.

THIS PROJECT CONSISTS OF A UNIT PRICE BID FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT SURFACE OVERLAYS OF EXISTING COUNTY ROADS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS AND RELATED ITEMS.

After review and award of a contract, the Owner will provide a "Notice to Proceed" to the Contractor for the specific project. Contractor will then have 10 working days after said "Notice to Proceed" to commence construction and until September 1, 2024 to achieve Substantial Completion and October 1, 2024 to complete all work for the project. Contractor will be assessed $300.00 a day liquidated damages for any work remaining over and above either of the specified contract completion dates. Payment to be made on a standard monthly claim basis, with 10% retainage, and said retainage may be held up to three months after the successful completion of this contract. There is no retainage reduction for this project.

Copies of the Contract Documents are on file for review in the Office of the Owner (JEFFERSON COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE, 300 East Main Street, Room 101, Madison, Indiana 47250). Access to an ftp site with the Contract Documents in PDF format is available from the Engineer (FPBH, Inc., 72 HENRY STREET, P. O. Box 47, North Vernon, Indiana, 47265, 812-346-2045) for a non-refundable fee of $50.00 per set. Printed copies of the Contract Documents are available for a non-refundable fee of $50.00 per set. Additional sets may be purchased for a non-refundable fee of $25.00 per set. Partial sets will not be available. Only those plan holders registered through the Engineer will be allowed to submit a bid for the project.

Bids must be submitted on the forms in the Contract Documents and other conditions therein described must be met. Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, clearly marked JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA – 2023-2 CCMG PAVING on the face of the envelope and display the name and address of the bidder. Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or Certified Check in a sum equal to 10% of the amount of the bid unless otherwise specified, and a completed Non-Collusion Affidavit. Bid prices must be firm for a period of ninety (90) days from the bid opening date. Should a successful bidder withdraw his bid, or fail to execute a satisfactory contract within ten (10) days after notice of acceptance of his bid, the owner may declare the Bid Security forfeited as liquidated damages, not as penalty. The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance and Labor and Materials Payment Bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract sum with an approved surety company. Said bond shall remain in full force and effect for a period of one (1) year after date of final acceptance of the work.

The JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to waive any or all formalities.

Madison, Indiana
February 8, 2024

hspaxlp

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:
39C01-2311-JC-000051
IN THE MATTER OF:
SGR - DOB 11/26/2015
A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES
AND
AMANDA TAYLOR (MOTHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING

TO: Any Unknown Alleged Father Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, 300 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250-3537 - 812-265-8930 for a(n) Initial/Fact Finding Hearing on 4/4/2024 at 10:00 AM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

2/5/2024
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk
Kristen Hamilton, *23782-39
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services 493 West Hutchinson Lane
Madison, IN 47250
Office: 812-265-4379

hspaxlp

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:
39C01-2311-JC-000041
39C01-2311-JC-000042
IN THE MATTER OF:
EB - DOB 4/29/2014
LB - DOB 10/23/2015
CHILDREN ALLEGED TO BE CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES
AND
GUILA LYNN LADWIG (BIOLOGICAL MOTHER)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING

TO: Guila Lynn Ladwig Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the children to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, 300 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250-3537 - 812-265-8930 for a(n) Initial/Fact Finding Hearing on 4/11/2024 at 10:00 AM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor children are children in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the children; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the children; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the children including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk
Kristen Hamilton, *23782-39
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services 493 West Hutchinson Lane
Madison, IN 47250
Office: 812-265-4379

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ESPN, CFP reach 6-year deal worth $1.3B

BRISTOL, Conn. — ESPN and the College Football Playoff have agreed to a six-year deal worth $1.3 billion annually that allows the network to keep exclusive rights to the 12-team playoff through the 2031 season, two people with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday because a deal cannot be finalized until the CFP works through other outstanding issues regarding the format and revenue distribution.

ESPN was first to report the offer of $1.3 billion annually from the network to the CFP, and The Athletic first reported that an agreement had been reached on those terms.

The network declined to comment.

"Negotiations are continuing," CFP Executive Director Bill Hancock told the AP.

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LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 39C01-2402-EU-000010
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF
MARK A. WILKERSON, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that on February 8, 2024, Kingsley Wilkerson was appointed personal representative of the estate of Mark A. Wilkerson, deceased, who died on January 8, 2024.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Madison, Indiana, this February 8, 2024.

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk, Jefferson Circuit Court
hspaxlp

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Canaan Utilities Corporation will hold its annual meeting March 12th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the utility office. Business will include the election of four director positions. All members are invited to attend.

hspaxlp

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY
ESTATE DOCKET 39C01-2402-EU-000011
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF
LOUISE ANN LARSEN, DECEASED
William Joseph Jenner, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE, 508 E. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOUISE ANN LARSEN, DECEASED.

Notice is hereby given that Linda Lee Duchesne was, on the 8th day of February, 2022, appointed personal representative of the estate of Louise Ann Larsen, deceased, who died on the 4th day of January, 2024.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 8th day of February, 2024.

/s/ Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN
hspaxlp

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LEGAL NOTICE DUKE ENERGY INDIANA, LLC

Public notice is hereby given to affected property owners pursuant to 170 IAC 4-9-4(f) that within two (2) to six (6) weeks of the date of this notice, weather permitting, Duke Energy Indiana, LLC will be performing vegetation management as part of its power line maintenance program in the area described below. As part of this project, one of its contractors that employ qualified utility line clearance tree workers will be trimming and/or removing trees and brush to clear the lines of vegetation in order to provide safe and reliable electric service. Vegetation management will be performed in/near Naab, Lexington on or near streets identified below:

Beginning at the substation located near the intersection of Naab New Washington Rd & Postal Dr to include the areas around and near: N of the substation, E of S Smith Rd, S of E Division Rd, W of S Hardy Mill Rd

The date this notice is published initiates the two (2) week period for calculating implied consent by an affected property owner under 170 IAC 4-9. If you have any questions you may contact the Duke Energy Vegetation Management toll free number, 866-385-3675.

Duke Energy Indiana, LLC Vegetation Management Department

hspaxlp

MADISON COURIER
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Publication Date	Deadline
Tuesday	Thursday 4 PM
Friday	Tuesday 4 PM

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Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM
*Holidays advance deadlines by 24 hours.

REGIONAL EDITOR

The Oldham Era – La Grange, Kentucky

The Oldham Era, an award-winning weekly newspaper outside Louisville, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of a regional editor in La Grange and surrounding areas. Candidates must be of dynamic personality able to network with local leaders, business owners and the community. The editor is the leader in the newsroom managing and overseeing news content. The editor is expected to work with the publisher in planning, budgeting and promoting the area newspapers and products that includes special publications throughout the year. A degree in journalism or similar field is required as well as newspaper experience.

The Oldham Era is the newspaper of Oldham County, Ky. Oldham County represents the communities of Pewee Valley, Crestwood, La Grange, Prospect, and Goshen. Oldham County has a population of approximately 70,000 and growing, known as being among the wealthiest, most educated and healthiest counties in Kentucky. The public school system in Oldham County is continually ranked among the best in the state with three high schools. The Oldham Era offers a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) and paid time off benefits.

The newspaper can be found online at *www.oldhamera.com*

Interested applicants should send resume and writing samples to: bcarlson@paxtonmedia.com

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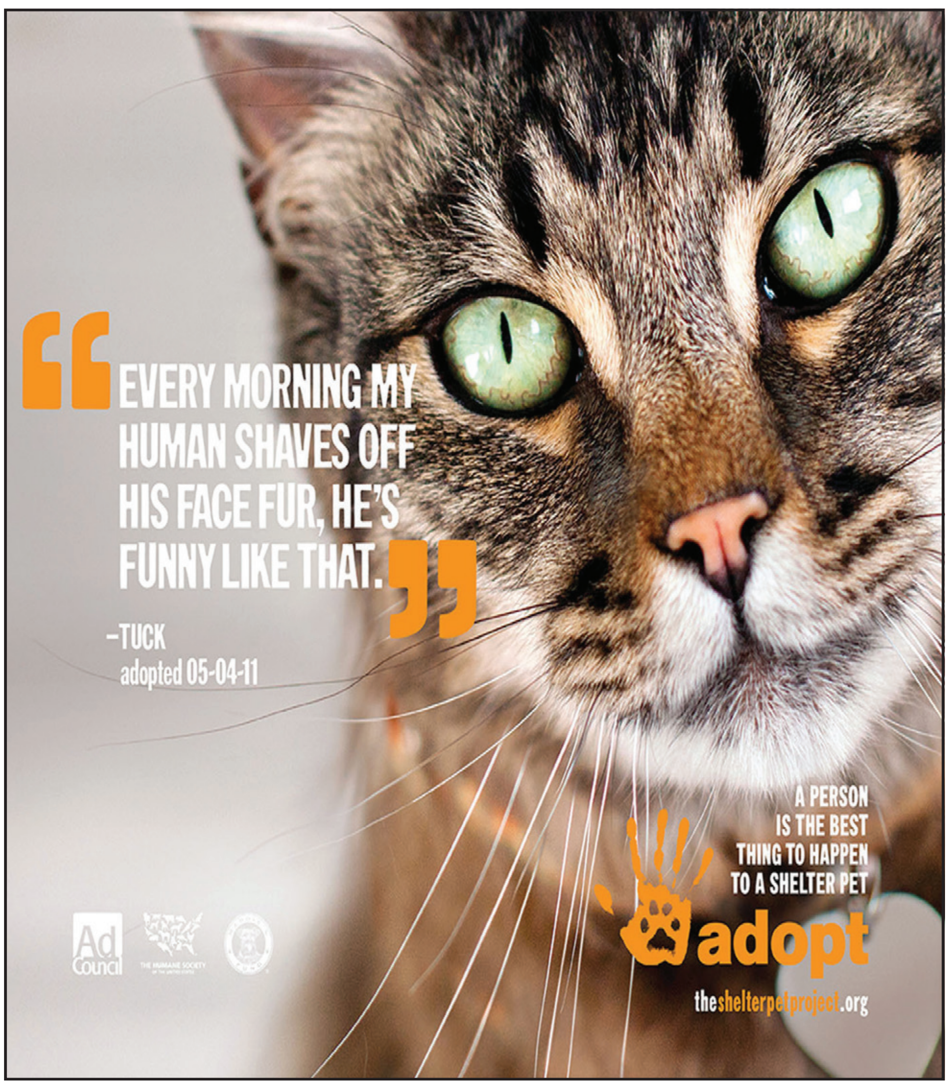
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World champ Rangers among 18 teams with pitchers, catchers working out

BY TIM BOOTH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new sign outside the Texas Rangers' training facility in Surprise, Arizona, became a favorite photo opportunity on Wednesday.

"World Series Champions. 2023."

"I've gotten even a deeper appreciation of what these guys did. It was just incredible year with a lot of ups and downs," Texas manager Bruce Bochy said. "I mean, yeah, got some pretty big hits on the injury side with some tough losses. But how these guys just focused forward the whole time. But what they did at the end, you know, throughout the postseason, it was just amazing."

Texas was among 18 teams that got workouts underway for pitchers and catchers, with 10 more scheduled to get started on Thursday.

But the Rangers were the only team to open with the hopes of matching what the Kansas City Chiefs just did in winning back-to-back titles. Bochy noted the challenges in winning one World Series, but also made reference to what the Chiefs accomplished last Sunday.

General manager Chris Young said his sense is the Rangers are still hungry.

"As I said it last year, this is the most professional group I've ever been around. They're extremely focused, they're extremely motivated. And my sense is they're not satisfied," Young said. "And while I think they deserve to be celebrated for what they accomplished last year. I think this group has expectations and ambitions beyond reaching the top one time."

While it was the start day for most of the league's pitchers and catchers, it was also the first full squad workout for the Los Angeles Dodgers, who open the season in Seoul, South Korea, against the San Diego Padres on March 20-21. That included Shohei Ohtani with his first official on-field day in Dodger Blue.

And many position players were already showing up camps and starting their prep for the season. Seattle's Julio Rodríguez, for instance, was hitting in the batting cages at the Mariners facility in Peoria, Arizona, just a couple of days after being in Las Vegas for the Super Bowl.

Young Cincinnati star Elly De La Cruz was taking grounders over in Goodyear, Arizona.

Cubs outfielder Ian Happ was another early camp arrival.

"It's nice to get out here," Happ said. "Weather's perfect, it's beautiful out here. We have a great facility that we get to work in. So to be able to get out here a week early and get a full week under your belt of being on the field, hitting, going through the process before we actually start up is really nice.

FREE AGENTS WAIT

While the pop of the glove started to be heard in both Florida and Arizona, there were still a large number of big names without a home. NL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell, slugger Cody Bellinger and Gold Glove third baseman Matt Chapman headlined the group of remaining free agents.

Of the 169 players who became free agents after the World Series, more than half were still without a team when the week began. That number finally hit the 50% mark on Wednesday when Yasmani Grandal (Pittsburgh), Shintaro Fujinami (New York Mets) , Phil Maton (Tampa Bay) and Scott Alexander (Oakland) all had their signings announced.

Philadelphia also signed right-hander Spencer Turnbull, who threw a no-hitter in 2021 before Tommy John surgery limited him to seven starts over the past two seasons.

Last year, half the available free agents had signed by the first week of January.

MANAGER DEBUTS

The first day of workouts also brought a mix of new managers — and some experienced managers in new places.

Most notable was the move of Craig Counsell from Milwaukee to NL Central rival Chicago and taking over the Cubs. Bob Melvin is now in San Francisco, leaving San Diego. Pat Murphy took over for Counsell with the Brewers. Mike Shildt returned to managing as the replacement for Melvin with the Padres. And Carlos Mendoza oversaw the first workout as the manager of the New York Mets.

That's just the National League.

The American League was a little less volatile this offseason with only three changes — Stephen Vogt taking over for Terry Francona in Cleveland; Ron Washington replacing Phil Nevin with the Angels; and Joe Espada stepping into Dusty Baker's spot with Houston.

"I'm super excited. Emotions are high. I'm really looking forward to getting on the field and working with this group," Espada said. "It's joy, absolutely. I'm humbled by this opportunity. Not everyone gets this opportunity to manage in the big leagues. I'm one of the lucky 30. And what makes it more special is it's with this team."

MOLINA DELAYED

Yadier Molina's return to the St. Louis Cardinals' spring training complex will have to wait a few more days. Molina managed Criollos de Caguas in winter ball and Puerto Rico in the recently completed Caribbean World Series.

"Given the fact that his season at Puerto Rico just ended, we're going to give him a few weeks before he actually reports, so that'll be more of a TBD," Cardinals President of Baseball Operation John Mozeliak said. "It will probably parallel when the minor leagues are going as well so he can double dip."

The Cardinals announced in December that Molina, who retired following the 2022 season after 19 years with St. Louis, would return to the club as a special assistant.

ON THE MOVE

Baltimore added a little outfield depth acquiring Peyton Burdick from Miami in exchange for cash. Burdick appeared in 14 games for the Marlins last season after spending most of the year at Triple-A Jacksonville.

The Yankees and Brewers swapped relievers with left-hander Clayton Andrews going to New York and right-hander Johan Quezada going to Milwaukee.

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FRIDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Password		Dateline NBC (N)				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	S.W.A.T. (SP)		Fire (N) (SP)		Blue Blood (SP)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Password		Dateline NBC (N)				News
8 WISH	12		News	AllAcc..	Inside..	ET (N)	Penn (N)		Funny..	Animals	News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)				News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)				News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Comm..	Week	Great Performances (N)			Perform.	
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N) (Live)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	S.W.A.T. (SP)		Fire (N) (SP)		Blue Blood (SP)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Penn (N)		Funny..	Animals	BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N) (Live)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		First48
AMC	29	26	(5:00) ★★★ Tombstone ('93)				★★ Red ('10) Bruce Willis.					★★ Red 2 ('13)	
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Movie
DISC	31	38	Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush (N)		(:10) Hustlers (N)		(:10) Outback (N)		GoldR..
DISN	25	29	Hamst..	Hamst..	Big City	Big City	★★★ Onward ('20)			BigCity	(:20) Big City		BigCity
ESPN	32	44	SportsCenter		Celebrity Game (N) (Live)				Boxing O'Shaquie Foster vs. Abraham Nova				
FREE	18	40	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	Family..	700Club
FX	40	28	(4:00) Hidden ...	★★★ The Help ('11) Emma Stone, Viola Davis.								Hidden Figures	
HBO	201	17	Movie	(:35) En..	(:15) ★★★ Avatar ('09) Sam Worthington.						Real Time (N)		True
MAX	270	73	(:10) ★★ Antitrust ('01)				★★★ The Bourne Ultimatum				(:55) ★★★ Lucy ('14)		
NEWSNTN	20	20	The Hill (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	Yellowstone "Daybreak"				Yellowstone		Yellow..
SHOW	221	16	(5:45) ★★★★ Titanic ('97) Leonardo DiCaprio.						★★★ Past Lives ('23)			(:45) Shooter	
TMC	233	74	★★ The Whale ('22)				★★★★ There Will Be Blood ('07)					Flesh & Bone	
TNT	27	43	(4:00) Matrix ...	Rampage (N)			TBA		2024 NBA Rising Stars (N) (Live)				NBA o..
USA	26	33	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		★★★ Thor ('11) Chris Hemsworth.					Bad News Be...	

SATURDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	Chefs	Song	Got Talent "Final Performances"				SNL		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		(3:00) PGA Golf		Sheldon	Sheldon	NCIS: Hawai'i		The Equalizer		48 Hours (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News (N)		NBCN..	Let'sT..	Got Talent "Final Performances"				SNL		News
8 WISH	12		(5:30) College Basketball			(:45) Basketball NC State at Clemson (N)					News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	WiseM..	Cash	NHL Hockey						News
11 WHAS	11	4	World..	News	Ent. Tonight (N)		NHL Hockey						News
15 WKPC	13		Antiques		TimFa..	RedGr..	Kentuc..	Ky.Afi..	★★★ Love Story ('70)				Austin
19 WXIX	10		(5:30) College Basketball			Hoops	College Basketball				FOX19 (N)		Floor
32 WLKY	5	5	(3:00) PGA Golf		Wheel	Jeopar..	NCIS: Hawai'i		The Equalizer		48 Hours (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	(5:30) College Basketball			(:45) Basketball NC State at Clemson (N)					The Rookie		9-1-1
41 WDRB	8	9	(5:30) College Basketball			Hoops	College Basketball				WDRB News		Floor
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		First48
AMC	29	26	(4:30) ★★ Red 2	★★ Armageddon ('98) Billy Bob Thornton, Bruce Willis.								Cast Away	
COM	45	59	Movie	★★ Step Brothers ('08)				Talladega Nights: Ballad of Ricky Bobby					Jeff
DISC	31	38	Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedi..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Hailey	Hailey	Chibiv..	Marvel..	Marvel..	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff
ESPN	32	44	Basketball Kentucky at Auburn				UFC 298 - Prelims (N) (Live)				College Basketball		
FREE	18	40	(5:00) ★★ The Lion King			(:40) ★★★ Despicable Me ('10)				(:45) ★★★ Despicable Me 2 ('13)			
FX	40	28	(4:30) Iron Ma...	★★★ Spider-Man: No Way Home ('21)							Spider-Man: No Way ...		
HBO	201	17	(:05) ★★★ Up in the Air ('09)				★★★ The Color Purple ('23) (P)				(:25) True "Part 5"		
MAX	270	73	(:20) Barely Lethal ('15)				★★ Ronin ('98) Robert De Niro.				★★ Bandits ('01)		
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	(5:30) Y..	Yellowstone		Yellowstone		(:35) Yellowstone		(:35) Yellowstone		Yellowstone	
SHOW	221	16	(:05) ★★★ World War Z ('13)				Last Voyage of the Demeter				Everything Everywher...		
TMC	233	74	(:15) LX 2048 ('20) James D'Arcy.				Bandit ('22) Josh Duhamel.				(:05) Confess, Fletch		
TNT	27	43	(5:30) All-Star Pregame (N) (Live)				All-Star Sat. (N) (Live)					Jokers	Jokers
USA	26	33	Chicago Fire		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi. Fire (N)		Chi.Fire

SUNDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	People's (N)		Peoples Choice (N) (Live)				Dateline (N)		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		(3:00) P..	CBSN..	60 Minutes (N)		Equalizer (SP)		Tracker (N)		CSI: Vegas (SP)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	People's (N)		Peoples Choice (N) (Live)				Dateline (N)		News
8 WISH	12		News	Retire..	★★★ Remember the Titans					Conners	News	Sports	News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	Fun Videos (N)		American Idol (N) (SP)				What Would		News
11 WHAS	11	4	World..	News	Fun Videos (N)		American Idol (N) (SP)				What Would		News
15 WKPC	13		Last/..	KeepUp	Hotel Portofino		Creatures (N)		Creatures (SF)		Miss Austen Regrets		
19 WXIX	10		(2:30) D..	Carcass	Next Level Chef		Simpso..	Krapo..	-North	Grims..	FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	(3:00) P..	CBSN..	60 Minutes (N)		Equalizer (SP)		Tracker (N)		CSI: Vegas (SP)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	BigBa..	BigBa..	★★★ Remember the Titans					Conners	Good Dr		ModF..
41 WDRB	8	9	(2:30) D..	Friends	Next Level Chef		Simpso..	Krapo..	-North	Grims..	WDRB News		Worry
A&E	28	36	Biography "Goldberg"				Biography "nWo"				Biography		
AMC	29	26	★★★★ The Shawshank Redemption ('94)						Spade "Episode 6" (N)			Shawshank R...	
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
DISC	31	38	(5:00) Afraid		Afraid		Naked and Afraid (N) (SP)				Afraid		Afraid
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	★★★ Toy Story 3 ('10)			Marvel..	(:20) Marvel's		Hamst..
ESPN	32	44	College Softball				College Softball				SportsCenter (N) (Live)		
FREE	18	40	(5:05) Despicab...	(:15) ★★ Despicable Me 3 ('17)					(:20) ★★★ Up ('09) Edward Asner.				
FX	40	28	(5:30) ★★ Jumanji ('95)				★★★ Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle					Jumanji: Wel...	
HBO	201	17	Movie	★★★ The Color Purple ('23)					True (N) (SF)		(:20) Enthusiasm		LastW..
MAX	270	73	(:20) ★★★ Ingrid Goes West ('17)				★★ Hit & Run ('12)			(:40) ★★★ Fargo ('96)			Movie
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	(5:50) Yellowst.		Yellowstone		(:10) Yellowstone		(:15) Yellowstone			Yellowstone	
SHOW	221	16	(:15) ★★ The Whale ('22)				(:15) Mayor of		The Woman (N)		Wolf of Wall Street		
TMC	233	74	(:20) Run & Gun ('21)				★★★ Romeo & Juliet ('96)				Emily Bronte's Wuthe...		
TNT	27	43	All-Star Pregame (N) (Live)				NBA Western Conference vs. Eastern Conference (N)						NBA
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-S..

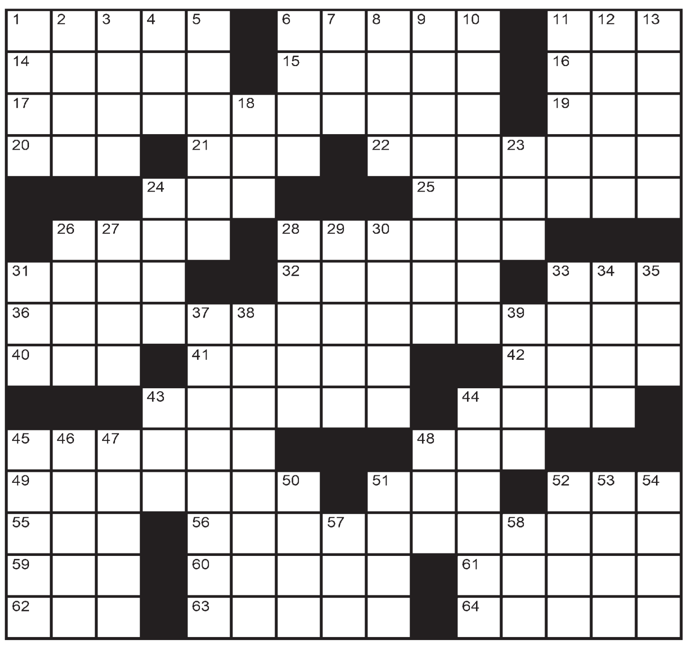
MONDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	America's Got (N) (SF)				Irrational (SF)		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Neighb..	BobHe..	NCIS (N)		NCIS (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	America's Got (N) (SF)				Irrational (SF)		News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Ride (N)		Wild Cards		News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	The Bachelor (N)				TBA (N)		News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	The Bachelor (N)				TBA (N)		News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Kentucky (N)		Smart Start (N)		Independent Lens (N)		
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Wanted (N)		TMZ Invest (N)		FOX19		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Neighb..	BobHe..	NCIS (N)		NCIS (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Ride (N)		Wild Cards		BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Wanted (N)		TMZ Invest (N)		WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	(5:30) ★★ Olympus Has Fallen				James (N)		James (N)		Janet "Part 1"		Janet
AMC	29	26	(5:00) ★★★★ Goodfellas ('90)				★★★ My Cousin Vinny ('92) Joe Pesci.					Days of Thun...	
COM	45	59	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	DailyS..
DISC	31	38	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Contraband		Contraband (N)		Contraband		Contra..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Marvel..	Marvel..	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Jessie
ESPN	32	44	SportCtr (N)		College Basketball				Basketball Kansas State at Texas				Sports..
FREE	18	40	Movie	★★★ Monsters, Inc. ('01)				★★★ Monsters University ('13)					700Club
FX	40	28	(5:30) ★★ The Proposal ('09)				Anchorman: Legend of Ron Bu...				Anchorman 2: Legend...		
HBO	201	17	(:10) Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit				True "Part 6"		(:20) Last Week		The Dark Knight		
MAX	270	73	Movie	(:25) ★★★ Source Code			Victor Frankenstein			(:50) ★ Friday the 13th ('09)			
NEWSNTN	20	20	The Hill (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	(5:30) Y..	Yellowstone		Yellowstone		Yellowstone		Yellowstone			Yellow..
SHOW	221	16	Halo		Halo "Sword"		Halo (N)		Star Trek		Sexy Beast		Movie
TMC	233	74	(:20) ★★★★ There Will Be Blood ('07)						The People vs. Larry Flynt (P)				Movie
TNT	27	43	(5:00) White House Down			(:45) ★★ Godzilla vs. Kong ('21)					Godzilla: King of the ...		
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		WWE Monday Night RAW (N) (Live)						Reside..

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

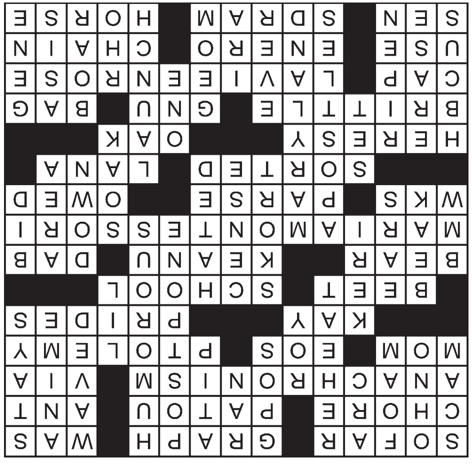
ACROSS
1 Up to now
6 Data visualization type
11 "__ it just me or..."
14 To-do list item
15 Jean of fashion
16 Industrious insect
17 Time-related error in a work of fiction
19 Through
20 Family nickname
21 Lip gloss brand in a round container
22 Noted Greek astronomer
24 Mary __ Cosmetics
25 Groups of lions
26 Borscht root
28 Group of fish
31 "Grizzly" animal
32 Actor Reeves
33 Little bit of lotion
36 Big name in early education
40 Seven-day periods: Abbr.
41 Analyze grammatically
42 Had debts
43 Put into piles, perhaps
44 "Madame X" star Turner
45 Defiance of orthodoxy
48 Chardonnay tasting note
49 Easy to shatter
51 Bearded antelope
52 Capture, slangily
55 Bottle part
56 Edith Piaf's signature song
59 Draw on
60 January, in Juárez
61 Necklace component
62 John Fetterman's title: Abbr.
63 Type of flash memory
64 Steed

DOWN
1 Phishing, for example
2 "Eek!"
3 Makeup of some mattresses
4 Fly ball's path
5 Microwave, say
6 Federal mail ctrs.
7 Organized
8 "Take __ from me!"
9 Put off until later
10 Funny
11 Moved in the wind
12 Studio Ghibli genre
13 Remains
18 Rob __ (Scotch cocktail)
23 Wee, informally
24 "The Americans" star Russell
26 Bird's proboscis
27 Prominent features of an elephant
28 Hybrid garment
29 Ritually perfume
30 Couldn't stand
31 German auto brand
33 Direction of this answer
34 Field of study
35 Participate in an auction
37 Followers of Jesus
38 Baltimore's state
39 Immerse in water
43 Ready
44 NASA event
45 Howard and Spelman, e.g.
46 Delete
47 Grow ready to eat
48 "__ of these days..."
50 At some point
51 Math subject with shapes: Abbr.
52 Wild pig
53 Tag sale warning
54 Trait carrier
57 Roth ___
58 Density symbol



Created by Stella Zawistowski 2/16/24

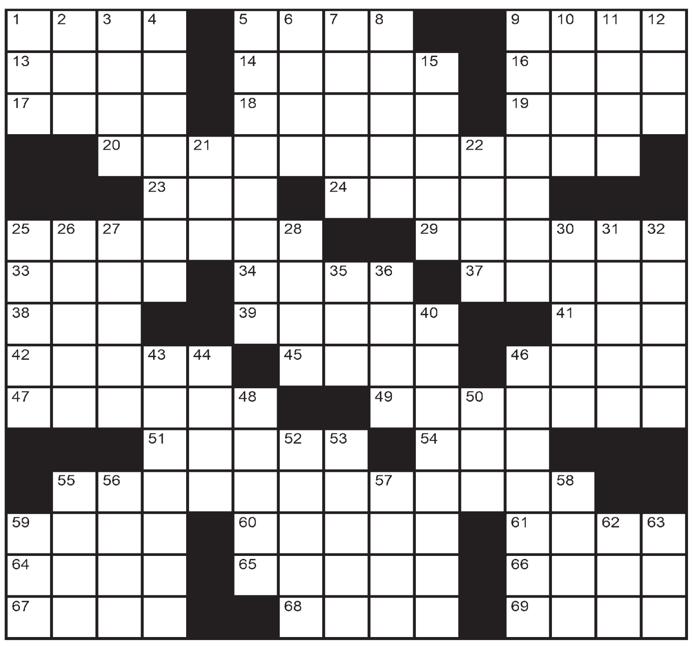
Today's Puzzle Solved



THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

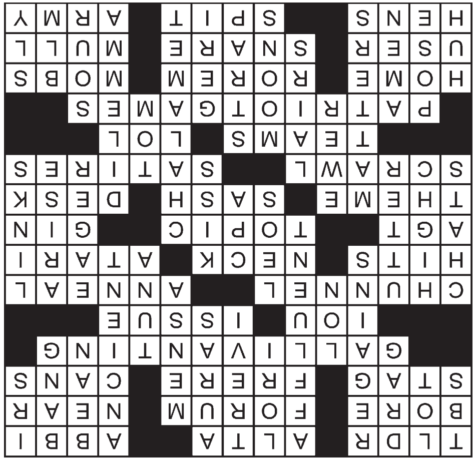
ACROSS
1 Abbreviation before a short version
5 Baja's opposite
9 Jacobson of "Broad City"
13 Uninteresting person
14 Place for discussion
16 Close to
17 Animal with antlers
18 "__ Jacques" (French children's song)
19 Food drive donations
20 Off on a jaunt
23 Letters before an amount due
24 Put out
25 Passage between England and France
29 Temper, as steel
33 Batter's statistic
34 Bottle part
37 Classic video game company
38 Simon Cowell's show, for short
39 Subject
41 Pink Lady liquor
42 Motif
45 Wide ribbon accessory
46 Classroom furniture piece
47 Messy handwriting
49 Works that spoof
51 Competing sides
54 Texter's "ha!"
55 1987 Tom Clancy novel
59 Residence
60 Composer Ned
61 Crowds
64 Opportunist
65 Trap with a net
66 Think (over)
67 Roosters' mates
68 Expectorate
69 Armed Forces branch

DOWN
1 "Very funny" network
2 Building site
3 Lug with effort
4 Gets back
5 Wealthy
6 "Tank Girl" actress Petty
7 Famed Roman fountain
8 Mysterious glows
9 Older than old
10 Hit in the head with a pitch
11 Explosion sound
12 W-9 form org.
15 Smart bunch
21 Chaney who played Frankenstein
22 Fish in a melt
25 Has a talk
26 Note in a soprano's range
27 Sheer
28 Some summer babies
30 Anxious to please
31 Come up
32 Sausage units
35 Auditor, often: Abbr.
36 Smooch
40 Timothée of "Dune"
43 Makes a difference
44 Pitcher by a basin
46 Difficult problem
48 Animals' hideouts
50 Male cat
52 Natural satellites
53 Handbag feature
55 Do some modeling
56 "Heck yes!"
57 Spice Girl Halliwell
58 Tart-tasting
59 "Well, I'll be"
62 Social justice abbreviation
63 Cagey



Created by Stella Zawistowski 2/17/24

Today's Puzzle Solved



Newly married wife receives a windfall

Dear Amy: My wife "Mel" and I are newlyweds. After the wedding, my wife's grandfather sent her a check for $10,000.

I jokingly asked her to hand over my $5,000 share as her new "partner."

She responded with an angry rebuke, which inspired me to start thinking seriously — why aren't I entitled to share in this wedding gift?

— D

AMY
DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear D: This answer would depend on your wife's grandfather's statement of intent when he sent this money. Was this a "wedding gift" or a gift sent to your wife after your wedding?

If the money came along with a note saying, "Mel, I hope you will use this gift toward retiring your college debt so you can get a running start to your marriage," then the grandfather is using the occasion as a way to give his granddaughter a special gift.

If the grandfather did not state any specific intentions and addressed the card/envelope to both of you as a wedding gift, then it is for both of you.

In my opinion, you blew it when you jokingly asked your wife to hand over your half, although the real gift here is that this episode should force you two to discuss your finances: What's hers, yours and ours.

Being married should inspire both of you to change your orientation from "me" to "we."

Will you deposit your paychecks into a joint account and pay your expenses from this account? Will you pay your expenses proportional to your incomes or split them equally? Will you each assume responsibility for your own credit card debt and agree not to let the balances grow over a set amount?

Moving forward, if one of you wins the lottery or receives money from a family member, will you deposit it into your joint account to be shared equally?

If you two divorced, these matters would be decided by the community property laws in your state. During your marriage, you get to make these choices as a couple, and I hope you will.

A postnuptial agreement would codify some of these decisions and is essentially a roadmap for dividing assets if you divorced. Even if you get a post-nup, don't plan for your divorce; plan for your marriage.

You might ask your wife how she would react if the situation were reversed and you had received a generous cash gift from a family member. Would she expect you to share the gift equally? (I expect she would.)

Would she thrust out her hand and immediately demand half? (I expect she would not.)

Empty-nester wants to clear out the nest

Dear Amy: My husband and I have two daughters, ages 24 and 26.

One lives in an apartment and works, and the other also lives in an apartment while she finishes graduate school.

My question concerns their stuff.

I expect them to move around for the next few years, and I don't need them to take all of their stuff now, but I want to have a plan for when I will no longer be the curator of everyone's stuff.

The garage is packed to the gills, and this project needs to start there.

I have many struggles, but getting rid of stuff is not one of them. (My husband really struggles with that.)

My sense is that a project like this starts with a conversation with all four of us, where expectations are laid out, followed by mini steps and dates for these tasks to be completed.

Ideally, things like clothes would be removed from closets and then remaining items could be boxed and stored in the garage. I am also ready to think about how to use these rooms differently, but I still want to have space/beds for them to visit. Do you have advice or resources for me?

— Not so Empty Nest Mom

AMY
DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear Not so Empty Nest: Definitely lay out your expectations and a roadmap for mini-steps and dates for when tasks will be completed.

And then watch as all of your beautifully laid and expressed expectations fall by the wayside. Why? Because this is a priority only for you.

Your husband isn't bothered by your garage doubling as a storage unit and your adult children have a responsible curator for their possessions — many of which they probably don't even know about or care about.

Many people your daughters' age have embraced minimalism. They might completely understand your desire but would benefit from a nudge.

Put the word out now that you're getting antsy to deal with these things. Ask both women to come home for a few days this summer.

Dive in, start sorting and plan a yard, eBay or Etsy sale. Anything that doesn't get sold will get donated to your local Goodwill. I predict that you will be able to reduce these possessions by at least half.

In my opinion, you should offer to hold onto treasures: report cards, prom corsages, yearbooks and heirloom items — until your daughters are settled. But store their low-rise jeans from 10th grade? No.

SUDOKU

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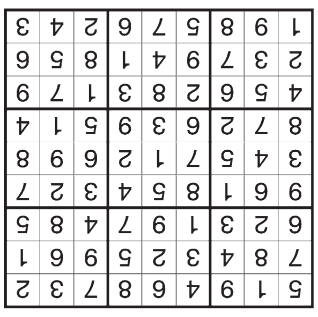
4			2	8	3			
		7		4			5	



SUDOKU

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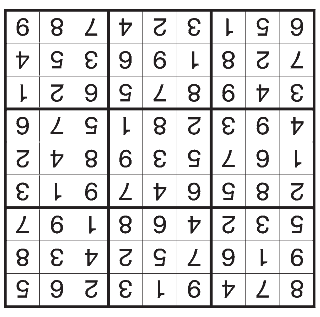
		8				3	5	
			3		4			



ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — While others may be drawing up battle lines, you might find yourself safely enveloped in a bubble of good vibrations. Keep an eye on your money, avoid major expenditures, and float above it all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — People may seem disappointing or unreliable now; maybe they are just bad at understanding and following directions. Behavior may not be rational and mistakes are fairly likely to be repeated. Exercise patience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Many people strive for positions of power and influence but moves made now are more likely than usual to draw fire. Sidestep any mudslinging and wait patiently. Later, a better opportunity to level up will arrive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Someone may arrive on the scene who teaches interesting life lessons and disrupts the status quo. The disruptions you experience may not be fun, but they can be powerfully helpful. Pay attention and be mindful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Partners who keep changing their minds can seem like an impediment to your new projects. Do your best to accommodate them but you may have to ultimately make a final decision whether they like it or not.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — When people you rely upon aren't going to be available, make a plan to work around their absence. Making key changes now could create an impasse or be disappointing. You may be someone's "Very Important Person."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Protect yourself and be a resource to help protect others. Be warm and friendly but don't flirt with anyone unless you are single and available. You may need to take steps to tame any discord if it appears this evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — There could be interruptions to routines. If you're emotionally prepared, you should be able to adapt to new conditions as they unfold with minimal problems. If needed, find workarounds to help you adjust.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may feel full of energy today, but even so, this would not be a great day to share your romantic side with a special someone. If you hook up with someone new now the attraction is likely to quickly fade.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Be forthright and clear whenever you reveal your feelings but wait for a better day. Family members or a special someone may be your most enthusiastic audience. Don't let a financial situation get out of hand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Input from outside sources can reveal key information. You might need to rethink your family finances or your payment schedules. Avoid emotionally charged situations for the next few difficult days.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Jockeying for position can be a very serious game and you may feel you'll have to fight for every inch if you don't want to end up at the bottom. Look to allies for protection, but also reassess when stars improve.

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — When you regularly show how committed you are to keeping promises you build trust. If and when you become less reliable, you erode trust. Still, whether they reciprocate is about them and not about you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Hanging with homies and engaging in physical activities, can usually relieve any stress or pressure you might feel. Your energy levels might be restored if a romantic partner appears eager to lend a loving hand.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — A new person in your circle might be fascinating but could distract you from routine duties or interfere with your plans. Wait for better stars to accept an unexpected invitation or to widen your network of friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Someone might encourage you to make a public appearance and attend a local event. New acquaintances could arrive soon to alter your perspectives. Learn from people who provide a breath of fresh air.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — People around you might be playing power games and struggling to take the top spot. Avoid this round. Whoever ends up as big dog now is likely to be constantly challenged. When the dust settles, positions can reopen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — There are always plenty of temptations in the world but most of them look their best from a distance. Stay up close and personal with those you know and love, and your sweetest dreams can be realized.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Working closely with others could make you feel complete, and more can be accomplished. Strengthen key relationships by demonstrating your devotion through acts of kindness and other simple gestures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Starting anything can be a challenge when certain people get involved, and you're unlikely to appreciate someone interfering with your schedule. Even if they want to help, you may need to work around them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You've probably got projects around the house that have been waiting, but this isn't a good day to start anything new. Working alone can be faster sometimes but working alongside someone else can build cooperation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There are far better days for short trips or to take the initial steps needed to launch plans. Wait for them to outline your goals and share your everyday activities and hopes and dreams with friends. Avoid injury.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — There is no acceptable level of some kinds of bad behavior, and some people will push against any boundary. Build and uphold your sanctity. if someone's reputation is truly tainted, being associated may make you suspect.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Don't make a partner or friend jealous with inconsiderate behavior. Although you may love being the center of attention or flattering someone's ego, remain sensitive to the feelings of others. Set clear limits.

Curry vs. Ionescu is an All-Star matchup a long time coming

BY TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

She's the player with the best 3-point contest performance in NBA or WNBA history. He's made more 3-pointers than anyone who's ever played at the highest level.

Sabrina Ionescu. Stephen Curry.

She's one of his favorites and led the WNBA in 3-pointers made last season. He's one of her idols and is the NBA's all-time 3-point leader. And on Saturday night in Indianapolis at All-Star weekend, they will go head-to-head in a 3-point contest — Steph vs. Sabrina, one that's already got both of them amped up for a competition on a global stage like none other between NBA and WNBA stars.

"It's going to be a great experience for us both," Ionescu said.

Added Curry: "It's an authentic competition between two great shooters."

It's not their first time facing off — the New York Liberty and Golden State Warriors stars have played HORSE against each other, and from the way they were telling the story on Tuesday night, it was clear that Ionescu won that matchup.

Their relationship goes back well over a decade and they've been in the stands to see each other play; Ionescu is a kid from the Bay Area whose family had Warriors season tickets, Curry took his daughters to see Ionescu play when she was at Oregon facing Cal in 2020. Ionescu talked to Curry's girls that night and neither they, nor their dad, forgot that act of kindness.

There is a clear, deep respect between the two. The winner on Saturday night gets bragging rights, but both of them know there's a far bigger prize than winning.

"I think a lot of people are either on one side or the other of their reactions, like this dopest thing in the world, it's the first of its kind and it'll be something that kind of changes the narrative of what it looks like," Curry said. "But then also, there is the camp that's like 'Oh, you've got a lot on the line. You really want to take on that challenge? What if you lose?' There's a lot of fear attached to it, really, I guess. This is what sports is about."

Here's how we got here: Ionescu put on a shooting show for all-time in the WNBA's 3-point contest last summer. She missed her first shot of that final round, then made her next 20 — yes, 20 — before missing again, and then she made her final five. The totals: 25-for-27 shooting, from seven different 3-point spots on the floor, in 63 seconds.

Ionescu posed for a photo imitating Curry's famous lights-out pose while holding her trophy at the WNBA event and raised the possibility of a matchup. She had just scored 37 shootout points; Curry's best in the NBA version of the 3-point contest is 31.

Then came last month, when Curry was wired with a microphone for Golden State's game against Sacramento and had a discussion with Warriors teammate Brandin Podziemski about Ionescu.

"I think I've got to challenge her," Curry told Podziemski.

Ionescu responded on social media: "Let's gettttttt it!! See ya at the 3 pt line."

And here we are.

It is already sounding like this one will be the matchup maybe everyone wants to see on the All-Star stage. Sure, there's the game on Sunday night, there's Mac McClung trying to defend his crown in the dunk contest on Saturday, there's Victor Wembanyama making his All-Star event debut in the Rising Stars games on Friday.

"We're really excited for the opportunity to do this," Ionescu said. "From my perspective, it's something I could have never imagined being a part of. It's really organic."

This one has a little bit of everything — a battle-of-the-sexes feel, two shooters with enormous respect from their peers, two players with enormous respect for each other.

And yes, it seems like people will be choosing sides.

"Two incredible shooters. Incredible players, really. I don't want to disrespect their craft. I know how much hard work they put in," Dallas guard Kyrie Irving said in a video posted on the NBA's social media channels. "But that 3-point line doesn't exist. They're all the way out to the 4-point line, 5-point line.

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Stop for stopped!

Drivers keep passing school buses, despite use of cameras

By TIM HENDERSON
Stateline.org (TNS)

In December, a mom on Long Island, New York, watched her young daughter get onto a school bus, then had to jump out of the way when a car came speeding past on the shoulder. That same month in Minnesota, a child leaving his school bus had to run to avoid being hit by a pickup truck.

Drivers nationwide continue to barrel illegally past stopped school buses, endangering children and caregivers – and sometimes worse. But some states have found it hard to enforce relatively new laws allowing on-board bus camera systems that record the violations.

Recent deaths during school bus stops include those of a parent and student in separate Texas crashes last year and of a high school student in Pennsylvania in 2022. They highlight continued careless driving around school buses despite flashing stop signs and obvious camera lenses. The recklessness may be part of a pattern of more aggressive driving noted by authorities that has caused more traffic deaths despite fewer miles driven overall since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A survey of school bus drivers last year, conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, estimated 242,000 vehicles illegally passed school buses in a single day. That was up from the 232,000 estimate for 2019. That year, seven states passed laws to allow automatic camera surveillance to catch suspected violators.

Almost half of states have such laws now. Massachusetts and Oregon considered, but didn't pass, similar legislation last year. A school bus camera program in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was held up last year amid debates in the state legislature over the size of fines and their impact on low-income communities.

But there are several reasons why enforcement might not have been as effective as intended.

Some safety authorities object to new camera laws that reduced fines and excluded license points and other more punitive actions allowed when the same violations are caught in person by law enforcement. Legislatures may have softened school bus penalties to gain consensus among skeptical lawmakers, authorities say.

Some states also are struggling with the limitations of cameras when it comes to enforcing laws requiring evidence police officers can see in person but cameras might not catch. The cameras might not show school bus markings mentioned in the law or whether students are actively getting on or off buses. Another technical issue: School bus cameras have flagged cars on different streets or in lanes separated by medians, where they're not legally required to stop.

How it works

Typically, the automatic cameras are engaged when a bus driver turns on a flashing stop sign, triggering a computer program that detects violations and sends them to reviewers to check before mailing a violation notice. But the cameras can't capture everything.

On New York's Long Island, a state appeals court threw out a $250 ticket in November, saying evidence from bus cameras isn't enough to prove a violation. Judges on the court said the camera did not establish that the school bus had correct markings or that it was actively picking up or dropping off passengers at the time of the ticket. That decision could endanger $25 million in annual fines from one county alone if other tickets are struck down.

In Pittsburgh, a district court judge told Stateline he dismisses most cases based on school bus cameras for insufficient evidence from the cameras.

Judge James Motznik said he also objects to the way Pennsylvania's law, like most state laws allowing automatic camera evidence to identify bus-passing violations, undermines a traffic law that's more punitive. The camera violations are issued as "civil complaints" with a lower fine and no loss of license points as required by the original traffic law against passing a stopped school bus.

"It was sold as a deterrent to enhance public safety," Motznik said. "But it's actually less of a deterrent. If a police officer witnessed this, there'd be a $500 fine, a license suspension, points toward losing your license. A camera sees the same thing, it's $300 and goodbye."

State legislatures sometimes have used less-punitive fines, without license points or suspensions, as a bargaining chip to reach agreement on camera enforcement such as school bus cameras, said Russ Martin, senior director of policy and government relations for the Governors Highway Safety Association.

"The thought was like, 'We can make this more accepted by the public.'" Martin said. "But there's another side to it. In some ways the points are more important than the fines for the worst violators – it means you can't just pay your way out."

Pennsylvania's law on school bus cameras was updated last year partly to allow a lower-cost way for motorists to contest tickets, using a state hearing officer in a free process instead of a court that requires filing fees, said Jennifer Kuntch, a spokesperson for the state transportation department. Pittsburgh schools recorded more than 9,000 violations since the bus camera program began in July, the district announced last month.

On Long Island, the appeals court decision against the red-light camera evidence endangers not only Suffolk County's program, which receives the $25 million in fine revenue a year, but also nearby Nassau County, where a class-action lawsuit is underway on behalf of 132,000 drivers with similar fines.

The appeals court ruling was vexing for local governments, said Paul Sabatino, an attorney and former Suffolk County legislative counsel. Cameras are a necessary part of enforcing the law against passing stopped school buses, he said.

"You can't allow people to endanger children like that, and you can't call out the National Guard to watch every school bus at every stop," Sabatino said.

Many school districts use contractors such as Virginia-based BusPatrol, which claims 90 percent of the market for school bus cameras, with some competition from others such as RedSpeed USA and American Bus Video. The companies may include school bus stop-arm cameras within a package of other automated traffic enforcement.

Justin Meyers, president of BusPatrol, said the company already has addressed evidence questions in New York state by adding to its "evidence packets" the school bus markings and maps showing the bus is on an established route. Suffolk County is the company's biggest customer, and BusPatrol has made a $40 million investment in equipping school buses there, Meyers said in an interview. It also operates in Pittsburgh.

The company uses computer algorithms and artificial intelligence to detect violations, which are then screened for accuracy by a BusPatrol employee before going to local law enforcement for a final decision on whether to issue a violation notice, Meyers said.

Few statistics available

There are few statistics on the extent of deaths and injuries from passing stopped school buses. Pennsylvania reviewed crash records at Stateline's request and said 12 such crashes occurred in 2022 and 13 in 2021, with one death in each year – one a student, one a parent – and 23 injuries across both years. Those figures include a crash that killed a 16-year-old high school student in November 2022 as she was trying to board a school bus in York County.

Across the country, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found 53 fatalities, half of them school-age children, between 2000 and 2021 in accidents involving illegal passing of a school bus, according to an analysis requested by Stateline.

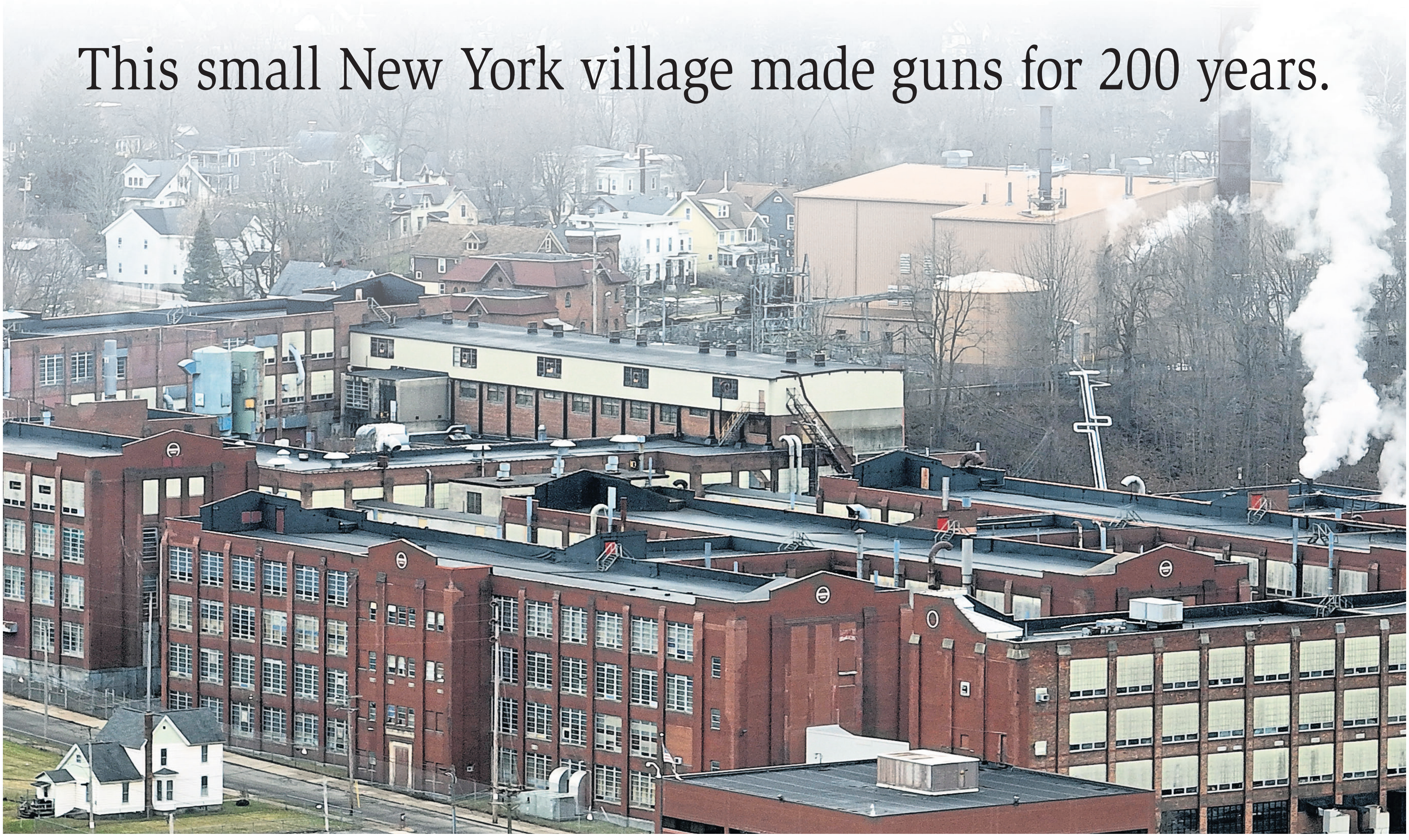
In Minnesota, school districts can apply for state funds to install school bus cameras. The Edina school district sought money last year after an "alarming" increase in bus-passing violations reported by bus drivers, along with two injuries to students, according to a press account in the local Sun Current newspaper. The district won $105,000 for cameras, a cost of about $4,000 per bus, and in January reported drivers had been ticketed for 70 percent of passing violations noticed by bus drivers, up from 5 percent without cameras.

In one of the Texas fatalities last year, a woman helping her child onto a bus in Upshur County was killed by a vehicle passing the bus, Sgt. Adam Albritton, a spokesperson for the state Department of Public Safety, told Stateline. The crash was reported, a driver was charged with manslaughter, and police are reviewing footage from a video camera on the bus for evidence, Albritton said.

Texas was an early adopter of video cameras to catch school bus passing violations, commissioning a 2008 study on such cameras. The state did not include school bus cameras in its ban on automated traffic enforcement in 2019. Not all school districts participate, but Austin, Dallas and San Antonio are among those that do.

Stateline is part of States Newsroom, a national nonprofit news organization focused on state policy.

This small New York village made guns for 200 years.



Photos by Seth Wenig / AP

A view of the Remington Arms Co., Inc. compound in the middle of Ilion, N.Y., on Feb. 1. The nation's oldest gun-maker is consolidating operations in Georgia and recently announced plans to shutter the Ilion factory in early March.

What happens when Remington leaves?

By MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

ILION, N.Y. — Remington began here two centuries ago and generations of workers have turned out rifles and shotguns at the massive firearms factory in the middle of this blue-collar village in the heart of New York's Mohawk Valley.

Now residents of Ilion are bracing for Remington's exit, ending an era that began when Eliphalet Remington forged his first rifle barrel nearby in 1816.

The nation's oldest gun-maker recently announced plans to shutter the factory in the company's original home early next month, citing the steep cost of running the historic plant. Remington is consolidating its operations in Georgia, a state the company says is friendlier to the firearms industry.

The company's recent history has been marked by a lawsuit after the Sandy Hook school massacre and bankruptcy filings that led to new ownership of the Ilion plant, where the workforce has dwindled from about 1,300 workers more than a decade ago to around 300.

But the move still stings for the village of 7,600 people, who face the prospect of a dramatic revenue loss and a vacant, sprawling factory.

"When Remington leaves, it's not going to be like a facility leaving, it's going to be like part of your family has moved off," said Jim Conover, who started at Remington in 1964 packing guns and retired 40 years later as a production manager.

Gun-making dominates and defines Ilion. It's entwined with the town the way car production is with Detroit.

Mayor John Stephens meets with village board members under a seal portraying Eliphalet Remington holding a long gun. The four-story, brick plant by Armory Street and Remington Avenue looms over the community about 55 miles east of Syracuse.

Everyone knows someone who worked at the plant. For some families, jobs there are practically a birthright. Conover's father and sons also worked at the plant. Furnace operator and technician Frank "Rusty" Brown still clocked in there this year with family members.

"My mom worked there. My dad worked there. My wife works there with me now. My daughter works there with me now. My second daughter works there with me now. And my son-in-law works there," said Brown, president of the United Mine Workers of America Local 717. "So it's a double-hit for me and my wife: two of us out of a job."

The current owners of Remington Firearms, RemArms, blamed "production inefficiencies" for the plant closure in a Nov. 30 letter to union officials. They cited the high cost of maintaining and insuring about 1 million square feet of space in multiple buildings, many dating to World War I.

RemArms added that Georgia offered an environment that better "supports and welcomes the firearms industry."

CEO Ken D'Arcy also said in a news release that the industry was concerned about the "legislative environment" in New York.

Some believe Remington is primarily shifting to the South to reduce labor and operational costs.

But in a stretch of upstate New York where support for gun rights tends to be strong, some Republican elected officials seized on the company's comment about Georgia. They linked the plant closure to gun control measures championed by New York City-area Democrats in recent years.

ARMORY
REMINGTON AVE

Street names reflect the importance of Remington Arms Co. in Ilion, N.Y. A decade ago, Remington had about 1,300 workers at the Ilion plant; now, the workforce has dwindled to about 300.

THE VILLAGE OF ILION NY
INCORPORATED 1852

Ilion Mayor John Stephens poses for a picture in front of the seal of the village at the municipal building on Feb. 1. The seal features Eliphalet Remington, the founder of Remington Arms Co.

Remington is not the first firearms maker to commit to a more gun-friendly state.

Smith & Wesson opened its new Tennessee headquarters in October after being based in Springfield, Massachusetts, since 1852. In announcing the move in 2021, company officials criticized proposed state legislation they said would prohibit them from manufacturing certain weapons.

RemArms, which bought the firearms business in 2020, did not respond to emails and calls seeking comment.

The company said in its letter to the union it expected to end facility operations around March 4. The company previously announced in 2021 it was moving its headquarters to LaGrange, Georgia, and would open a factory and research operation there.

The days of traffic jams in Ilion every afternoon when day shifts let out are long gone. Empty spaces dominate the factory's big parking lot. Nearby businesses delivering lunches to the plant, like Franco's Pizza, already have seen orders dramatically fall.

"They've been dwindling down," Franco's owner Daniel Mendez said. "This is not necessarily going to put us out of business, but it does hurt."

With a fraction of its past workforce, Remington leaves Ilion with more of a whimper than a bang.

Stephens believes the remaining workers will be able to find other work in the area. But he also estimates the plant's loss could cost the village almost $1 million annually, including utility payments and taxes.

Local officials hope the plant site can host a mix of manufacturing, retail and residential units. But its fate remains unclear. It was listed for sale last month for $10 million.

"Things can become an eyesore quickly," said Michael Disotelle, historian at Ilion's public library. "And the being in the center of the village like that, you can't just let it go."

The present factory site dates to 1828, when Eliphalet Remington located his operations along the recently opened Erie Canal. Though guns historically have been Ilion's prime product, Remington also made typewriters, sewing machines and other consumer items.

Cerberus Capital Management purchased Remington Arms in 2007, placing it in the same corporate family as Bushmaster Firearms and other gun companies. Bushmaster Firearms moved manufacturing operations to Ilion for a time in 2011.

Remington Outdoor Co. and its subsidiaries filed for bankruptcy protection in 2018, citing slumping sales as well as legal and financial pressure after the Sandy Hook school shooting that killed 20 first graders and six adults. A Bushmaster AR-15-style rifle was used in the massacre.

Family members of victims and a survivor of the shooting who filed a 2015 lawsuit against Remington settled in 2022 for $73 million.

A second bankruptcy filing was made in July 2020. Within months, 545 workers at the Ilion plant were laid off.

The company's assets were divided at auction. A judge approved Vista Outdoor's $81.4 million bid for Remington's ammunition and accessories businesses. The Ilion plant went to a group of investors called the Roundhill Group as part of a $13 million bid.

After months of union negotiations, the firearms plant reopened in the spring of 2021. If RemArms sticks to its March closure timetable, the restart in Ilion will have lasted just under three years.

The mayor said there will be hard decisions ahead, but he's confident the site will be used again. And while Remington might leave, he said the connection can never be totally severed.

"Even when they are finally 100 percent no longer involved in the Village of Ilion in any way, shape or form, we're still going to be known for this," Stephens said. "You can't erase history."

ENTERTAINMENT

Jon Stewart returns

THE DAILY SHOW

Matt Wilson / Comedy Central / TNS

Jon Stewart returned to the "The Daily Show" as host on Monday.

Host breathes new life into 'The Daily Show'

By LORRAINE ALI
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

Monday's "The Daily Show" opened to roaring applause and a standing ovation from the studio audience as they welcomed back host Jon Stewart, who left the show in 2015 after 16 years at the helm.

"Why am I back, you may be asking yourself, and that's a reasonable question," he said with a grin on his face. "I have committed a lot of crimes and from what I understand, talk show hosts are granted immunity."

Stewart's high energy matched the anticipation around his return to the Comedy Central show, which was hosted by Trevor Noah up until 2022, when he stepped down. The last year and a half has been anchored by a string of guest hosts, including Kal Penn, Charlamagne tha God, Sarah Silverman and Michelle Wolf.

Now that Stewart's back, he'll anchor the show every Monday night, at least until the presidential election in November. The other nights will be populated with a rotating array of "correspondents."

But a lot has changed since Stewart left his post, including national levels of political vitriol and the role of the media in making or breaking candidates. Consider that when Stewart was last the host, Bill O'Reilly was the kingpin at Fox and the possibility of Donald Trump in the Oval Office was a joke.

Stewart dove into his opening monologue with the zeal, wit and timing that made him a pioneer of modern, late-night political satire.

In discussing the Super Bowl, he flicked at absurd conspiracy theories about the NFL and Taylor Swift being operatives for the Democratic Party. The game was really a kind of no-win for conservatives who feared the success of a Joe Biden plot if the Kansas City Chiefs won over the San Francisco 49ers, he said. But, "if the Chiefs lost, who wins? The People's Communist Republic of Gay Pelosistan," quipped Stewart.

Appearing earlier Monday on "CBS Mornings," the 61-year-old joked that he was well-positioned to cover this election because he's someone "who truly understands two aging men past their prime." Stewart appeared in his element Monday night, and admitted as much about his return to "The Daily Show."

The host's last endeavor, the Apple TV+ show " The Problem with Jon Stewart," lasted just two seasons. Stewart told the CBS hosts that he "very much wanted some kind of place to unload thoughts as we get into this election season. I thought I was going to do it over at – they call it Apple TV+ – it's a television enclave, very small. It's like living in Malibu. But … they felt that they didn't want me to say things that might get me in trouble."

Stewart, who is also executive producer of "The Daily Show," spent most of his time Monday night doing what he does best: cutting through contentious political discourse with insight and humor, and homing in on the critical issues. His trademark brand of both-sidesism, while remaining firmly progressive, diminished Bill Maher's recent efforts to brand his HBO show as the only place where both sides are represented.

President Biden and former President Trump were the main focus of Stewart's opening show. He spoke about them next to a graphic that pictured both men looking their age. "Nine months until the election, people, and we already know our candidates. Drumroll please … these f------ guys," he said in a deflated tone. Then the new banner for this year's election flashed on the screen: "Indecision 2024: American DeMOCKracy" and "Electile Dysfunction." Later he changed it to "Indecision 2024: Antiques Roadshow."

Stewart offered a refreshing perspective on how both Democrats and Republicans have largely avoiding looking at their own candidate's advanced age, while weaponizing that same factor against the opponent.

"The question then becomes what the f---- are we doing here, people?" joked Stewart. "We have two candidates who are chronologically outside the norm of anyone who has run for the presidency in this country in the history of the country. They are the oldest people ever to run for president, breaking by only four years the record that they set the last time they ran.

"What's crazy is thinking that we're the ones, as voters, who must silence concerns and criticisms. It is the candidate's job to assuage concerns, not the voters' job not to mention them."

Then graying Stewart asked the camera operator to come in for a close shot of his face: "I didn't want to have to do this on my first day. Look at me. Look what time hath wrought. Give the kids a treat of the lunar surface here. I'm like 20 years younger than these mother f----. … And if you think 20 years isn't that long, this is me 20 years ago."

And up popped a photo of Stewart looking, well, much younger.

"Look, the next nine months or so, and maybe more than that depending on the coup schedule, they're gonna suck. You're gonna be getting emails with insane subject lines like, 'Hello Jon, it's Chuck Schumer. Donald Trump is right behind you with a knife.' You're gonna be inundated with robocalls," he said, "and push polls, and real polls. … It's all going to make you feel like Tuesday, Nov. 5, is the only day that matters, and that day does matter, but man, Nov. 6 ain't nothing to sneeze at, or Nov. 7."

"If your guy loses, bad things might happen, but the country is not over," he continued. "If your guy wins, the country is in no way saved. I've learned one thing over these last nine years, and I was glib at best and probably dismissive at worst about this. The work of making this world resemble one you'd prefer to live in is a lunch pail … job, day in and day out, where thousands of committed, anonymous, smart and dedicated people bang on closed doors and pick up those who have fallen and grind away on issues until they get a positive result, and even then, have to stay on to make sure that result holds. So the good news is I'm not saying you don't have to worry about who wins the election. I'm saying you have to worry about every day before it and every day after it – forever. Although, on the plus side, I'm told that at some point the sun will run out of hydrogen."

The show also featured an interview with Zanny Minton Beddoes, editor in chief of the Economist, and dispatches from the correspondents on the campaign trail. From outside a diner in Michigan, Dulcé Sloan complained the election was a tired reboot. "They already had this job. Now these old white dudes got to come back and reclaim it? Like c'mon! Go do something new and don't be so desperate. Let someone else run the show," she said, clearly referring to Stewart's return.

Later, Jordan Klepper – who will be hosting the show the rest of the week – appeared behind the desk with Stewart. "Did you save democracy yet?" asked Klepper. "With your '90s brand of snark and both-siderisms ... Searing, Jon."

And with that, Stewart was back.

"The work of making this world resemble one you'd prefer to live in is a lunch pail ... job, day in and day out, where thousands of committed, anonymous, smart and dedicated people bang on closed doors and pick up those who have fallen and grind away on issues until they get a positive result, and even then, have to stay on to make sure that result holds. So the good news is I'm not saying you don't have to worry about who wins the election. I'm saying you have to worry about every day before it and every day after it – forever. Although, on the plus side, I'm told that at some point the sun will run out of hydrogen."

JON STEWART
Host of The Daily Show

MOVIE REVIEW

Beth Dubber / Columbia Pictures / TNS

Dakota Johnson as Cassandra Webb in “Madame Web.”

‘Madame Web’: An itsy-bitsy spider of a Marvel hopeful

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

‘Madame Web” is the first Marvel-affiliated movie for which I feel truly sorry. Most of its problems are quality-related. But some aren’t; some relate to audience fatigue and OK, well, here’s another one.

Sony Pictures’ piece of the Marvel pie, separate from the official, Disney-branded Marvel Cinematic Universe, includes the “Spider-Man” movies plus “Venom” and a few others. That pie has been sitting out on the counter, unrefrigerated, for a long time now. This is not “Madame Web’s” fault.

The director and co-writer S.J. Clarkson makes her feature debut here; her extensive TV credits include the Marvel series “The Defenders” and “Jessica Jones.” “Madame Web” feels like it should not have been conceived as a movie – with its modest visual scale, the wobbly dramatic stakes, Dakota Johnson’s small performance, Sydney Sweeney’s small performance, Tahar Rahim’s small performance. It plays like a bland, third-season Marvel series as watched on a 12-year-old TV set playing in the wrong dramatic aspect ratio, which I realize isn’t a real thing. But now it is.

‘Madame Web’

★ ½

MPA rating: PG-13 (for violence/action and language)

Running time: 1:57

How to watch: In theaters

Typically these Marvel-derived origin stories (the Madame Web character was introduced in 1980) have an advantage over the average JAS (Just Another Sequel), even if job No. 1 is to tee up the hoped-for franchise. In this case, it’s a narrative about three teenage girls with gradually revealed superpowers and their extremely powerful guardian/pal, New York City paramedic Cassie Webb (played by Johnson). Cassie is the orphaned daughter of the intrepid Peruvian Amazon rainforest spider-hunter who dies in childbirth, assisted in the worst way by a gunshot wound. We learn the identity of the perp straight off. With “Madame Web,” the audience knows everything the characters take forever to learn themselves.

Most of it unfolds in 2003, with the grown-up Cassie and her fellow paramedic Ben Parker (Adam Scott) saving lives but nearly losing Cassie in a near-death incident. She comes through, but is now haunted by strange time-loop hiccups and uncertain powers of clairvoyance. She can see the future, but only a few seconds into that future. At first, anyway. In the right state of mind, i.e., high crisis mode, Cassie flits from past tense to future tense to present, without much control. She’s like the movie, in other words.

The villain Ezekiel (Rahim), who stole the red jungle spider in the prologue, wants to harness its power for bad, not good (that’s why he’s bad, or at least misunderstood). He and his assistant (the deadpan Zosia Mamet) spend a fair amount of screen time looking at screens, searching for the whereabouts of Webb and the three young women who will kill him someday. He knows this because the super-spider’s venom runs through his veins, just as it does with Cassie, enabling him to foretell future events.

The young women at the center of all this are played, gamely, by Sweeney (Julia), Celeste O’Connor (Mattie) and Isabela Merced (Anya). In stronger moviemaking circumstances, they’d be all right. The script, with four credited writers, and the filmmaking lacks an activating spirit. Director Clarkson leans into the teenage characters’ frustrations and confusion for genuine feeling and pathos, but they’re dramatized with distressing flatness. Also, the frequent depictions of Cassie’s dream state, or subconscious, where she’s able to vision-quest all over the place and even commune with her late mother, resemble a waterlogged waiting room just outside an auxiliary quantum realm.

I generally like Johnson on screen, but her low-stress underplaying is not quite right for this stuff. Nobody in this movie pops, or crackles, or snaps, or finds ways to energize the blah blah. The action’s not much; the acting’s minimalist bordering on somnambulant.

During one corporate event a few years ago, Sony used the phrase “Sony Pictures Universe of Marvel Characters” in reference to its future slate, with an acronym of SPUMC. It’s fun to say – “spummk!” – but it evokes something less than fun to watch. And here we are.

TV REVIEW

The New Look’ chronicles and contrasts the lives of Christian Dior and Coco Chanel

By ROBERT LLOYD
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

Roger Do Minh / Apple TV+ / TNS

Ben Mendelsohn stars as French fashion designer Christian Dior in “The New Look,” now streaming on Apple TV+.

‘The New Look,” a 10-episode miniseries – or possibly a series – premiering this week on Apple TV+, is set in the world of Paris couture over four years, 1943 to 1947, from near the end of World II to not long after, when designer Christian Dior presented his first collection and became an overnight sensation at age 41. It’s billed as “inspired by” true facts – which is to say, the fabric has been much embroidered.

Although the title refers to the sobriquet bestowed upon that collection by Harper’s Bazaar editor-in-chief Carmel Snow (Glenn Close), it might more accurately be called something like “Christian and Coco,” since the running time has been split pretty evenly between Dior and rival designer Coco Chanel – or perhaps yet more accurately, “Christian or Coco,” since it consists of two interwoven but completely separate films.

Though they work in the same field in the same place, though not always at the same time – Chanel closed her studio in 1939 and didn’t mount another collection until 1954 – the characters have nothing to do with, and only a little to say about, one another. Indeed, apart from one brief apocryphal encounter and a glance across a room crowded with Nazis, they never share a scene.

One could argue that there’s structural sense in this two-mints-in-one approach. The life and career of Dior are not obviously the stuff of exciting docudrama, as a major streaming platform would define it, and Chanel, certainly in the years pictured here, is not a particularly sympathetic figure. There’s a compare-and-contrast element to their individual stories, underscored by frequent cross-cutting, though one would be hard put to pull any great meaning from the juxtapositions.

We begin in 1955. A self-effacing Dior is at the Sorbonne, before a packed house, presenting a greatest-hits retrospective of his work, described by the moderator as having “started a revolution [and] helped humanity find beauty and the desire to live again after the horrors of World War II.” (“Ooh, is that what they’re teaching you?” he quips.)

Meanwhile, somewhere across town, Chanel, who at 70 is making a comeback, dismisses him to a clutch of reporters: “I feel sorry for the students at the Sorbonne having to suffer through him today. ... Christian Dior ruined French couture, and I’m coming back to save it.”

From there, we flip back to 1943 – not to the atelier of Lucien Lelong (John Malkovich, whose French accent seems performed under duress), where Dior, still a “nobody,” is employed as a designer, but to the streets of Paris where Christian is standing in line for food and sister Catherine (Maisie Williams), a member of the French Resistance, is setting a trap for some German soldiers.

When not sketching designs or contemplating a drape, or worrying about his sister, Dior hangs out with designers Cristóbal Balenciaga (Nuno Lopes), already famous, and Pierre Balmain (Thomas Poitevin), later famous, who criticize him because he’s designing a gown ball for a party being thrown for a Nazi bigwig, to which he responds that Lelong hasn’t told him who the client is, and anyway he needs to support his sister and father. (Lelong is given short shrift here, but many credit him with keeping the industry alive through the war.) An antic Pierre Cardin (Eliott Margueron), who would work on Dior’s first collection, also makes an appearance. There is a disappointing lack of shop talk.

Chanel, meanwhile, is living at the Hotel Ritz, where the local Nazi brass have set themselves up. Repaying a favor, she has dinner with tall, dark and handsome-if-you-like-that-type Gestapo spy Hans Günther von Dincklage (Claes Bang), called “Spatz,” with whom she commences an affair. This leads to a dinner party for Heinrich Himmler (“What is this ‘haute couture’?” asks the SS boss and Holocaust architect), where she is lively and amusing and politically noncommittal. She’s later drafted as agent in something called Operation Modelhut – relatively benign as such missions go, it had to do with getting a message to Churchill. (The implication is always that she’s a less than eager participant.)

What concerns her more is the fact that Pierre and Paul Wertheimer, who financed the production of her perfume Chanel No. 5 and controlled 70 percent of the stock in comparison to Chanel’s 10 percent, have moved to the United States and, as Jews, have temporarily transferred the business to a Christian friend, in order to avoid German expropriation. She wants her money.

After the war, they meet again, with matters unresolved – Chanel hopes to rewrite what she considers a bad deal – and in a strange exchange, Pierre will ask her to apologize first for having tried to take the business herself, using the so-called Aryan laws.

Pierre: “We were being hunted, exterminated.” Coco: “Have you ever thought about what a woman has to face to survive in this world? I was cornered just like you. The difference is I was used to it.”

I am entirely unsure how we’re meant to read that response, as a feminist statement – and there was an element of literal liberation in Chanel’s post-Edwardian, uncorseted designs – or an expression of cluelessness, or I don’t know what. But if ever an equivalence were false, that is it.

Where Dior is immediately likable, in his low-key way, creator Todd A. Kessler (”Damages,””Bloodlines”), who also directed some episodes, does his strenuous best to make Chanel at least understandable, even relatable, despite her anger, selfishness, bad decision making, Nazi affiliations and briefly suggested antisemitism. As represented here, her only deep human affections are for her nephew, André Palasse (Joseph Olivennes), who serves in the French army, and his daughter; in gaining André’s release from the Germans, she makes a bargain that will come back to haunt her.

She has an up-and-down relationship, ricocheting between affection and annoyance, with old friend Elsa Lombardi (Emily Mortimer, typically excellent), who shares a last name and a handful of biographical details with Chanel’s real-life friend and fashion inspiration Vera Bate Lombardi.

‘The New Look’

Rating: TV-MA

How to watch: Apple TV+

The length of the series necessitates regular injections of adrenaline, and while there are some legitimately dramatic episodes, especially as concerns Catherine, who was captured by the Nazis and sent to a work camp, even the simplest decisions can precipitate a crisis. (Mortimer’s Elsa, a frequently inebriated hot mess – the name change frees Kessler to do what he likes with the character – seems crafted specifically for that purpose.)

As the series, carries on toward a climax, or climaxes, old Hollywood tropes rush in, things get corny, and the whole show becomes less persuasive. Given that the emphasis is on the personal drama and melodrama, one exits the series without having learned much about dressmaking – which, like any craft or industry, can be compelling in its own right – or, indeed, with any idea of what made the New Look new, or exactly what Chanel, whose career in fashion went back to 1909, disliked about Dior, or how their approaches to fashion differed.

Still, if taken as a whole, the series has a lumbering, scattered quality but there are things to enjoy along the way. The Paris locations are real or as good as (none of your “Prague will do” here); individual scenes are well-written; the re-creation of the creation of the Théâtre de la Mode, a 1945 exhibition that featured miniature mannequins wearing bespoke fashions by 15 top designers, as if to say, “We’re still here,” is not a little moving; and the two stars are very fine in their contrasting modes.

That Chanel is given to dramatics, and quick alterations of attitude, gives Binoche a lot to work with, while Mendelsohn, representing a character shy and interior, given to sighs and staring into the middle distance as he dithers over a family matter or the line of a skirt or a tarot card reading, is impressive in his quietude; he comes across as a real person, whether or not it’s the real person he’s playing.

MOVIE REVIEW

Come for Bob, stay for Rita in ‘Bob Marley: One Love’

By CHRIS HEWITT
Star Tribune (TNS)

Most of the people at the “Bob Marley: One Love” screening I attended walked out of the theater singing along with the closing credits song, Marley’s “Is This Love.”

That’s a tribute to the song, not the movie, but it also underscores something the film seems likely to do: Amplify how tremendous the Marley catalog is. Obviously, classics such as “No Woman, No Cry,” “Get Up, Stand Up,” “Exodus,” “Three Little Birds,” “One Love” and “Redemption Song” remain favorites even without the movie (all are on the compilation “Legend,” one of the biggest selling albums of all time). But putting the songs at the center of the movie was smart not just from a marketing standpoint but from a filmmaking standpoint, since their stirring, buoyant sounds do a lot to smooth over rough patches in the narrative.

There are a lot of them. Wisely, “One Love” doesn’t try to tell Marley’s entire life story, concentrating instead on 1976-78, the eventful years during which Marley and wife Rita were shot during a brewing civil war in Jamaica, Marley and the Wailers gained world fame with enormous tours and Marley eventually returned to Jamaica for a peace concert that, at least briefly, united warring politicians onstage.

Chiabella James / Paramount Pictures / TNS

Kingsley Ben-Adir stars in “Bob Marley: One Love.”

Flashbacks fill in a few details of Marley’s early life, particularly meeting Rita when both were teenagers. But, mostly, “One Love” is content hinting at the complications of their life. Both had children with other partners while they were together and, as Rita says during an argument, “You come and go while I make a home for your children, including the ones from other women.”

‘Bob Marley: One Love’

★★

MPA rating: PG-13 (for marijuana use and smoking throughout, some violence and brief strong language)

Running time: 1:44

How to watch: In theaters

If musical biopics such as “Rocketman” and “Bohemian Rhapsody” work best during those moments when the lead performance is so uncanny that you briefly believe you’re watching the real deal rather than an actor, you should not expect that sort of thing from “One Love.” Kingsley Ben-Adir, who was terrific as another real-life legend, Malcolm X, in “One Night in Miami,” is buried in a series of unconvincing wigs. He also has the wrong sort of charisma to capture the buoyancy and spirit of Marley.

Lashana Lynch is the real revelation of “One Love.” Lynch – who stole scenes with very different performances in “Matilda the Musical” and “The Woman King” – does it again here, giving Rita a quiet, unshakable calm that is magnetic.

If you want to learn about Marley, you’re better off diving into Kevin Macdonald’s “Marley” or one of the other documentaries about the reggae legend.